

PROUD ELLIE TAKES HER PLACE IN CITY'S PARALYMPIAN PARADE



Ellie Simmonds posted this picture from the parade in Manchester

GREAT Britain's Olympians and Paralympians – including Aldridge's Ellie Simmonds – took to the streets on Monday, to celebrate their record-breaking performances at the Rio games.

An excited Ellie, aged 21, kept fans up to date via her Twitter account, posting pictures.

The swimmer had tweeted that she was 'very excited for the next two days' – referring to the Monday parade in Manchester and Tuesday's march through Trafalgar Square.

She later tweeted: "It's raining but we are still smiling @Sam-

sungUK #SamsungGB360 #GB-HeroesMCR."

The region's most successful Paralympian was celebrating taking home the sixth gold medal of her career in this year's Rio games. She made her Olympic debut aged just 13 in 2008 at Beijing but made her name in London in 2012 when she smashed two world records, one by five seconds, on her way to capturing two golds.

She has both an MBE and an OBE and a postbox painted gold in Aldridge in her honour.

Before the parade, the day had been labelled 'a celebration fit for

heroes' by Prime Minister Theresa May.

Stars including Jessica Ennis-Hill, Dame Sarah Storey, an honorary graduate of Wolverhampton University, Max Whitlock, Jade Jones and Nicola Adams were among the athletes attending the parade, which acted as an official homecoming event for the heroic athletes.

Other representatives from the region in the Paralympics included Halesowen's Jordanne Wiley, Walsall's Ryan Cockbill, Wolverhampton's Kyle Marsh and Stourbridge's Richard Davies.

COUNCIL Praise for action to tackle travellers

AN MP has praised Walsall Council for introducing new measures to tackle travellers in the borough.

The authority is one of just three across the country to be granted a court injunction giving them greater powers to remove travellers. The first successful case of the injunction being used happened last week, when a group of travellers pitched up 14 tents on Delves Green Common.

Due to the council's new powers, they were removed within 24 hours, as opposed to three or four days as would have been the case in the past.

David Winnick, MP for Walsall North, said: "I am pleased that it looks like this injunction is going to be a success. Any action taken to prevent residents from coming to harm is a good thing."



David Winnick

Restraining

"There is always bound to be anxiety amongst residents when an illegal camp is set up so hopefully Walsall Council will continue to use their new powers."

The council focused its application for an injunction restraining people from setting up encampments on 12 named sites as they had, in recent times, been most heavily affected. They were the areas in which the local residents and businesses had been disturbed by unauthorised encampments.

Two of them are owned in part by Walsall and Sandwell councils who have joined together to obtain the injunction which covers the entirety of these sites.

PLAYGROUP TOLD IT MUST IMPROVE

A WALSALL playgroup has been rated as 'inadequate' by the education watchdog. Ofsted has now demanded that Park Hall Playgroup bosses make improvements to the facility in Falmouth Road following an inspection.

Inspectors said staff did not know what to do if they had concerns about a child's safety, and that the quality of teaching was 'weak', with youngsters not being taught new words.

The playgroup has gone from an overall rating of 'good' to the worst ranking of 'inadequate'. Inspectors said leadership, quality of teaching, outcomes for children, and personal development were also 'inadequate'.

Ofsted's Trisha Turney, who inspected the nursery in September, said: "Safeguarding is not effective. Although staff are able to identify signs and symptoms of abuse, they are unsure of the procedures to follow if they do have concerns about children's welfare."



The Falmouth Road premises

Inconsistent

"The safeguarding policy is not sufficient as it does not include any guidance to follow in respect of reporting child protection concerns. Procedures for reporting allegations against staff are inaccurate. Teaching does not meet children's needs."

"Observations are not carried out regularly and assessments are inconsistent. This means that there is a lack of accurate information that can be used to help children build on what they already know. Consequently, there is little evidence of how information from observations is used to plan and provide a suitable range of experiences for all children. Staff speak kindly with the children. However, conversation is not used well to extend children's learning."

However, the report noted that children are 'generally happy' and receive plenty of opportunities for fresh air and exercise. This is on top of the playgroup regularly speaking to the children's parents about their care.

Nevertheless the playgroup, which cares for up to 24 children, has been told that its children are not developing 'all of the key skills' necessary to move onto primary school.

Barbara McCracken, the community manager at Park Hall association which runs the playgroup, said: "The committee and the association take the findings very seriously indeed and we are working with Walsall Council's early years team and support group to address the issues. Everybody is working together in the most positive way to address the issues of concern and improve the situation for the children who use the playgroup."

Stavros to make night go with a bang

THE sky is set to be lit up when the biggest fireworks display in Walsall returns next month.

Walsall Arboretum will host the annual bonfire and fireworks event on November 5, which is also set to feature Britain's Got Talent star Stavros Flatley.

The night will include a music stage provided by Free Radio with a full line up from 6pm, with doors opening at 5.30pm and fireworks display starting at 8pm.

Councillor Chris Jones, portfolio holder for clean and green services with Walsall Council, said: "Walsall's premier park is going to be the place to be this bonfire night and promises to be an entertaining evening for the whole family to enjoy."

Earlier

Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/walsallarboretum.

Adult tickets cost £5, child tickets cost £2, and under 5's go free.

Ticket holders are advised to arrive before 7.15pm to ensure getting a good view of the display.

For further information call 01922 653344.

Meanwhile, at Willenhall, the fireworks take place a week earlier on Saturday October 29 at Willenhall Memorial Park in Pinson Road.

Gates open at 6pm, the bonfire starts at 7pm and the fireworks get under way at 8pm.

The cost is £4 for adults; £1 for children and under-5s are free admission.



Louise Worton and Mark Hopson from Walsall Council get set for the display

BUILDING Ex-police station on market for £1m

THE former Walsall Police Station building has been put up for sale for £1 million.

West Midlands Police announced they were closing the Green Lane site along with 26 others after a year-long review.

The 1.6 acre site has already been listed on property website Zoopla for a guide price of £1m. The site boasts offices, gym, storage, kitchen, toilets and internal car parking. It was originally due to close on May 31 but the date was pushed back as refurbishment work on the force's new Bloxwich base was ongoing.

INSIDE MAYOR WALKS IN SHADOWS



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Football boost in stalwart's memory



The Johnny's Boys team

HUNDREDS of pounds was raised in a football tournament held in memory of a much-loved man who died of cancer.

John Brotherton, from Great Wyrley, passed away just 10 days after being diagnosed with bowel and liver cancer. He was formerly the groundsman for Harrisons FC – who played in Hazel Slade before disbanding several years ago.

Ten teams of six players came together at the old pitches for a game of football in remembrance. And it raised £670 for Cancer Research UK in the process. Lucie Farmer, who was secre-

tary at Harrisons FC, said: “We first organised as a kick-about to raise money for Cancer Research but because John Brotherton passed away it ended up being a tournament for him.

“He was a much-loved man by the lads playing and very passionate about what he did. He was always there sorting the changing rooms, doing the lines and putting the kit out.

“All of the lads played four matches each and eventually there was a final. Lots of family and friends came along and it went really well.”

In addition to the £670 raised, John's son Tom Brotherton, who was part of the Johnny's Boys team, has raised £2,500 via a Just Giving page.

He said on his fundraising page: “My dad loved his football especially helping out with Harrisons FC in Great Wyrley.

“As a tribute to him, we have around 12x 6 a side football teams competing in the ‘JB six-a-side Tournament’.”

The tournament took place on October 8. To donate money in John's memory go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/t-Brotherton

Council at ‘breaking point’ as cuts loom

WALSALL Council has hit ‘breaking point’ as it prepares for drastic cuts which could see The New Art Gallery, museums, libraries and youth services axed to save £86 million.

The bleak revelations come as the council's Labour leader of the council Sean Coughlan said ‘public services are at the point of breaking right across Walsall’ and ‘no service is safe’.

Councillor Coughlan also refused to rule out cutting hundreds of council jobs and calling for a referendum to raise council tax by more than 3.99 per cent.

He was speaking at a press conference at Walsall council in which he revealed the council is looking to save £86m in the next four years, including £31m for the next financial year.

The exact details of what cuts will be put forward have not yet been finalised.

But among the savings being lined up include closure of The New Art Gallery, which was opened by the Queen in 2000 at a cost of £21m to the public purse. Adult social care and children's services are expected to receive the biggest funding hit.

Shrunk

Councillor Coughlan said: “If we continue with these austerity measures then in four years time we will be left with one library, no youth service, no art gallery and no performing arts centre. Public services are at the point of breaking right across Walsall. No service is safe. It has not been an easy process but everything is on the table.”

Walsall Council has shrunk from 5,000 employees to 3,500 since 2010 and Councillor Coughlan did not rule out hundreds more going in the next four years.

The leader also admitted that in an ‘ideal world’ residents would agree to a referendum to raise council tax by more than 3.99 per cent. Councillor Coughlan said: “I would hope that people realise that the only way to preserve services is to pay more. That is the reality, that is where we stand.”

He estimated that council tax would have to rise by some 30 per cent to protect all the services, but accepted that residents would never agree to this.

Development nominated for award



Cardan Pointe, which is in the running for the Chartered Institute of Housing's Midlands Development of the Year

A NEW £5.5 million Walsall development has been nominated for an architecture award.

Walsall Housing Group's (whg) Cardan Pointe, which is part of the town's Waterfront development, has been nominated for the West Midlands Development of the Year at the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) Midlands Awards 2016.

The winner of the award will be revealed next month.

Cardan Pointe's 44 apartments provide homes for people aged 55 and over and are all wheelchair accessible. It was opened by Walsall South MP Valerie Vaz in September.

whg's director of development Mark Tranter said: “Cardan Pointe is a scheme of significant importance in that it is an integral part of the Waterfront regeneration. The scheme is the first of four Wellbeing schemes which we will deliver in Walsall during the next four years.

“During the past four years the scale and shape of our development programme activity has increased significantly from 60 homes on site in late 2012 to over 900 homes on site currently.

Cardan Pointe's nomination for Development of the Year is well deserved recognition for the whole team and their achievements over the past four years.”

whg will find out whether it has won the award at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry on Thursday, November 10.

Travellers soon moved on following use of powers

TRAVELLERS were kicked off a site in Walsall in just 24 hours, under new powers to take robust action against illegal camps.

A court injunction granting Walsall Council greater powers to remove travellers from sites across the borough in just 24 hours was recently granted.

The council is just the third local authority in the country to successfully obtain an injunction from the county court and now has increased powers to restrict the setting up of encampments or anti social behaviour at 12 specific sites, including Delves Green Common, which was targeted by travellers recently.

Approximately 14 caravans were encamped on Delves Green on the afternoon of October 6, prompting Walsall Council to work with West Midlands Police and Sandwell council to enforce the injunction and use its powers to remove the travellers.

At around 1.30pm the following day, bailiffs enforced the order resulting in the travellers leaving the site. Three of the caravans then moved on to Manor Farm, Floyds Lane, Rushall in order to set up an unauthorised encampment.

They were moved swiftly from that site and told that the council would enforce the injunction order across the borough as well as use its common law powers to move the travellers off its land.

Councillor Sean Coughlan, leader of Walsall Council, said: “Walsall council is proud that by working on a multi-agency basis they have achieved this success.”

Diversity survey for health service

PEOPLE in Walsall are being asked to advise health bosses on how to best reach out to the multicultural communities across the borough.

NHS Walsall CCG has commissioned Healthwatch Walsall to find out more about the diverse population of Walsall and the best ways in which to communicate health messages to its different communities.

The research involves focus groups made up of over 65s, parents of young children and representatives from different communities.

In addition, residents are also being invited to complete a short survey. Residents have until October 31 to complete the survey, which can be filled in online via Healthwatch Walsall's website at www.healthwatch.walsall.co.uk

Ramblers take to the countryside

WALKERS can join West Bromwich Ramblers for a trip to Shropshire on Sunday. There will be six and eight-mile routes around the village of Worfield.

The coach will leave West Bromwich Town Hall on the High Street at 9am. For details contact 0121 358 6591.

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Protection order move will target centre jobs

STREET drinking and anti-social behaviour in Walsall town centre has forced police officers to try and introduce a public space protection order to cover the area.

At present, there is only one similar order in force, which gives police powers to criminalise behaviour that is not normally criminal in a particular area, across the borough.

The first was brought into force across the Beechdale estate back in May as community leaders claimed they needed to 'look at something that hasn't been done before to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

Now, neighbourhood officers from the St Matthews police team hope to have the order in place by the end of the year to cover Walsall town centre.

They claim street drinking near the bus station is a major problem which has prompted the move. Sgt Julie Whiting said: "Street drinking and anti-social behaviour have increased concern within the town centre in the location of Bradford Place close to the bus station in Walsall town centre.

"St Matthews neighbourhood team has worked hard to reduce the drink related anti-social behaviour that was prevalent on the Bridge area by targeting repeat offenders and taking robust action on drink-related incidents.

"This has now displaced some of the issues onto the other side of the town centre close to Bradford Place bus station. The bus station appears to be an attraction for social gatherings and drink related issues; this causes concern for the local community."

Sheds' apology by firm bosses

BOSSSES at a development company accused of 'destroying' a woman's garden sheds and greenhouse have said they are continuing to work with her to resolve the issue and have apologised for the incident.

Sue Horobin, aged 62, of Leighwood Road, Aldridge, heard a 'great bang' when builders for McCarthy & Stone knocked down a wall next to her home. She went into her garden to see the two sheds and a greenhouse belonging to herself and husband, Kevin, had been broken.

Tim Lightfoot, construction director at McCarthy and Stone West Midlands, said: "Regrettably during this operation our demolition contractor damaged two sheds on the land adjacent to ours. We apologised at the time of the incident, and immediately made all structures watertight, and offered to store the homeowner's goods in a secure container and have since prepared a new shed base for the replacement shed we will be providing.

"Of the two sheds delivered only one was accepted by the homeowner."

"We have since supplied two alternative replacement sheds. However, during this shed's erection, we were instructed to stop and are awaiting the homeowner's approval."

Improvements made at GP practice



New Invention Medical Practice

HEALTH inspectors have returned to a Willenhall GP practice after it was branded unsafe last year following issues around infection control.

In December, safety was rated inadequate at New Invention Medical Centre, which caters for 6,300 patients. New management has since taken over and health watchdogs have now published their findings following a return visit in June. They noted improvements had been made.

The Care Quality Commission's (CQC) latest report said: "The provider in place at the time of this

latest inspection had recently taken over the contract for the practice on 1 April 2016 and had commenced improvements to the site.

"A new practice manager had been recruited to provide managerial support, support staff and provide advice about the day-to-day operations of the practice. The evidence at this inspection demonstrated that the provider had taken action to comply with the warning notice."

The inspectors added: "Issues relating to carpets and sinks, identified in the infection control audit of May

2015, had been addressed in line with national infection control guidance.

"Seating in the waiting area was still in need of repair, but this had been organised and we saw evidence to confirm this.

"The practice employed a cleaning company to carry out daily cleaning of the practice and records were in place which demonstrated that a schedule of regular cleaning took place."

It was noted that further actions had been identified to improve facilities for disabled people while staff had completed specific training.

Tram train call hope to boost businesses

CALLS have been made to introduce a tram train service connecting Willenhall to Walsall and Wolverhampton - after it was claimed that the move would be a business boost for the town.

Councillor Ian Shires, who represents Willenhall North, says his Liberal Democrat team are pressing the newly-formed West Midlands Combined Authority to build a station in the town.

It follows last year's announcement that the long mooted '5 W's' metro link, connecting the town to the rest of the Black Country, was 'dead'. Councillor Shires said: "A move to tram trains on the line through Willenhall would reduce costs and add more flexibility.

"The tram train concept would improve connectivity making Willenhall an attractive place for business to invest and people to come to live whilst at the same time providing new job opportunities for Willenhall workers.

"It isn't easy to get around the area at the minute and this could really help that, which then leads on to better job prospects for those living in the town.

Electrification

"Improving the area's infrastructure is also positive way of helping regenerate the area.

"Tram trains would add to the work already being done on the electrification of the heavy rail network north of Walsall which in itself has opened up the very real possibility of links to London and the North.

"Add this to the injection of cash to improve Junction 10 of the M6 where work is due to start by 2018 prospect for our area are looking positive."

Councillor Shires also claimed that a feasibility study is currently being carried out by Centro in relation to the idea, saying that it is his belief that the tram trains, which are much lighter than regular trains, makes it a lot easier to implement when compared with calls that have been made in the past for a train station to be built in the town.

He pointed to the success of the system in Germany and current trials in Sheffield as key indicators that the plan could work.

He said: "The concept has been used successfully in Karlsruhe, Germany since 2004 allowing for a seamless transition from an inner-city tram-trip to a regional train journey."

Wheels of a fortune for hospice



Brothers Dillon and Myles Wakeman who raised hospice funds with their own sponsored cycle ride

TWO brothers, aged nine and eight devised their very own sponsored cycle to raise money for a hospice.

Dillon and Myles Wakeman cycled from their home in Delves Crescent, Walsall, to Reedswood out of the town and back.

The route was around 10 miles and took them four hours.

The pair raised £202 for Acorns Hospice.

Dillon, aged nine, attends Penk-

ridge Middle School. Myles, eight, goes to St Michael's School, also in Penkridge.

Their mother, Sonia Wakeman, said the brothers came up with the idea on their own after visiting the hospice.

The 44-year-old staff nurse said: "They are the type of children who think of other children and adults who are less fortunate than themselves.

"We have the hospice near

where we live and when they visited they were given ideas on how to fundraise."

"They decided to organise the bike ride, and did it on October 9.

"Then they collected money in the roads around us."

She added: "I am so proud of them, I am over the moon at what they achieved."

The brothers are next planning to hold a cake sale to raise more money for the hospice.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-police station on market for £1m

THE former Walsall Police Station building has been put up for sale for £1 million.

West Midlands Police announced they were closing the Green Lane site along with 26 others after a year-long review in an attempt to save the force money.

The 1.6 acre site has already been listed on property website Zoopla for a guide price of £1m. The site boasts offices, gym, storage, kitchen, toilets and internal car parking.

It was originally due to close on May 31 but the date was pushed back as refurbishment work on the force's new Bloxwich base was ongoing, but officers have now moved in.



The former HQ

Oil spillage leads to chaos on M6

LANES were closed on a motorway stretch throughout the day last Thursday after an oil spillage.

Two lanes between junction 12 and 13 southbound on the M6, were closed from 7.30am until around 11.30am after a hydraulic oil spillage.

The entry lane to junction 13 southbound was also closed until 2pm, with motorists advised early on that they should look to avoid the stretch if possible.

After that, one lane remained closed between Junction 13 and 12 for emergency repairs until the evening.

Campaign sees donors sign up

MORE than 1,000 new donors have signed up to give blood in the West Midlands after a two-week campaign.

The Missing Type campaign brought together 25 blood services across 21 countries in a global drive for donors, and saw 24,000 across England sign up, and 46,000 worldwide.

In total, 1,067 new donors signed up in the West Midlands region.

Jon Latham, of NHS Blood and Transplant, said: "We're so grateful to everybody that has come forward to become a new blood donor."

Peep Show star at pub in Brum

COMEDIAN Matt King will perform his unique music at a pub tonight, Thursday.

He is best known as the Peep Show character Super Hans and he visits the Hare and Hounds, in Kings Heath, at 7.30pm. Details are available at the website hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk/the-venue

Rebecca Keatley (Crestline) Sam Rabone (Theatre) Ian Hargrave (Theatre)

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MEMO to all those bad losers in the Commons complaining that MPs must be given a vote on Brexit. You've already cast your vote. You had it on June 23, just like the rest of us.

WHERE fat comes from. Fancing a snack on the motorway. I bought a BLT sandwich in a service station. The print on the wrapper boasted about the crisp lettuce and vine-ripened tomatoes. The small print revealed it contained 770 calories – equivalent to nearly three Mars Bars.

FOUR bearded Asian men were thrown off a flight from Manchester to Turkey after allegedly being disruptive and playing an audio track containing the repeated word "bomb." The key word here is "allegedly". Some Thomas Cook flight staff say it was some of the worst behaviour they had ever seen and upset some passengers. But the men, aged 18-23, only admit to being "a bit loud" and having "a laugh and a joke." And that's it – claim, counter-claim and accusations of racism chuckled about. In the 21st century there should be not an ounce of doubt. How much would it cost to equip every airliner with CCTV? If police and prison officers wear body cameras, why not flight attendants? It's hardly rocket science to record the incident, transmit it to police at the arrival airport and have the magistrates waiting for when the "bit loud" passengers land. This way, gentlemen...

IN a matter of hours the internet can create a fad that would have taken months to organise in the old days. The latest is the scourge of "scary clowns," terrorising people all over Britain in the run-up to Halloween. Before that it was the ice-bucket challenge. Come to think of it, a bucketful of iced water on a chilly October evening might be the perfect way to deal with scary clowns.



IN their defence, at least the scary clowns are succeeding at being scary. This is in contrast to real clowns who repeatedly fail to be amusing. When did you last see a funny clown? How many nights at the circus are ruined when a succession of dazzlingly athletic and dangerous acts is suddenly interrupted by half-a-dozen linguistically-challenged and deeply unfunny old men with fake buckets of water and an exploding car?

REPORTS claim that the loss of two black contestants from Strictly has "prompted accusations of racism on social media." It is bizarre how that phrase "on social media" gives some sort of authenticity to a story. In this age of brainless instant communication with no qualifications required and anonymous Tweeters, we should try replacing the words "on social media" with "by a bunch of nobodies."

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Health boss in M6 Toll lorries call

A COUNCIL health boss has called for high polluting diesel lorries to be diverted onto the M6 Toll to reduce pollution on the M6.

Labour Councillor Ian Robertson raised the concerns as a section of the busy motorway runs through Walsall, with research suggesting that diesel pollution could lead to Alzheimer's disease.

He wrote to the Express & Star in

the wake of Chris Grayling's comments about West Midlands councils buying the M6 Toll after it was put up for sale.

Councillor Robertson, of Blakenall ward, dismissed the claims, saying councils across the region could not afford to buy the controversial motorway because they have been 'starved of funds by the Tory Central Government'. But he added that now

the M6 Toll has been brought back into the headlines the option of reducing pollution should be discussed.

His letter read: "If it was possible to divert some of the high polluting diesel lorries to travel on the toll road... this could reduce pollution on the M6 which goes through a very highly populated area."

"Research shows that the high level of contamination with diesel

particles formed by the oxides of nitrogen from the exhaust fumes collects in our brains and there is the suggestion, needing further research, that these particles could trigger the plaque formation formed in Alzheimers' s disease."

The new transport secretary Chris Grayling said he was not 'philosophically opposed' to the idea of the toll road becoming nationalised.

Academy's teacher up for award in capital

A TEACHER from a school in Walsall is due to attend a prestigious grand final of the Pearson Teaching Awards in London on Sunday.

Gary Craven of Joseph Leckie Academy in Walstead Road, has been nominated for an award following the receipt of a Silver Teaching Award earlier this year, in recognition of his exceptional contribution to the teaching profession. The Pearson Teaching Awards – also known as Gold Plato Awards – final takes place at The Guildhall and is hosted by actor and comedian Hugh Dennis.

Gary was nominated for the accolade by pupils, parents and colleagues in the Joseph Leckie community and the annual awards ceremony will be broadcast on BBC2 a week later on October 30th.

There will be a total of 10 Gold Plato awards handed out across categories such as Excellence in Special Needs Education and Lifetime Achievement.

In June, Gary was recognised as one of just 52 Silver Teaching Award winners in the UK, winning his award in the category The Award for Lifetime Achievement.

An academy spokesman said: "Gary epitomises the teacher that we all remember for the rest of our lives – fun, energetic, enthusiastic about his subject, caring, exciting, interesting, ambitious and with a seemingly endless drive for improvement and development of both his teaching and others."

"Gary has been a fundamental part of the structure of Joseph Leckie Academy for over 25 years and there has not been a student who has passed through the school who has not, in some way, been assisted by Gary's wonderful talent for getting young people to shine."

"He is versatile, yet knows what works; he is friendly to all he teaches, but all pupils know their boundaries with him; and he has a natural ability to make even the duller historical topic interesting to the widest of abilities of students."

Winnick talks with pupils on suffrage

AN MP spoke to school pupils about the fight to get equal votes for women during a talk.

Walsall North MP David Winnick visited Pool Hayes Academy to speak with pupils about adult suffrage, sparking a discussion about how women fought for their right to vote 100 years ago.

The MP said: "Speaking to pupils at Pool Hayes Academy, I referred to the long battle to bring about adult suffrage. I mentioned that 100 years ago women were denied the vote because of their gender."

"Politics involved all aspects of life, and I went on to say that it was crucial that one took part in the democratic process and voted at election time."

"Far too many currently didn't do so in the borough."

£5,000 paid out by chiefs over potholes

Report by Robert Cox

WALSALL Council paid out nearly £5,000 in just one year as a result of pothole damage to vehicles.

The authority received 61 claims in 2015-16 and was forced to shell out £4,891 in compensation.

It was ranked 85th of 152 councils across the country, according to figures released by the RAC Foundation. The council's 2015-16 compensation payout was less than half the figure of £10,000 in the previous year.

Wolverhampton received 67 claims and paid out £7,066; Sandwell 107 claims, paying out £10,862; and Dudley 66 claims with a total paid out of £3,170.

Meanwhile Staffordshire County Council was ranked the seventh worst council across the country and was forced to shell out £34,628 after receiving 817 claims.

Regeneration chief Councillor Lee Jeavons said: "Local councils are facing diminishing resources but despite that we believe we manage our roads effectively."

Investing

"Last week the council's Highways department became award-winning after picking up the Highways Maintenance Efficiency Award from Highways Magazine."

The Government says it is investing more than ever to tackle the state of our roads – creating the first ever pothole fund. This year the Black Country and Staffordshire will get £1.5m to fill potholes.

However, this was described as a 'drop in the ocean' by council bosses when the deal was announced back in May. Steve Gooding, director of the RAC Foundation, said: "These figures are symptomatic of the inadequate funding available for local road maintenance."

"Year in, year out, the backlog of work on local roads is estimated to run to several billion pounds. A pitted road surface isn't just a problem for motorists – for those on two wheels it can be life-threatening."

Civic couple's blindfold challenge



Mayor Kath Phillips and her husband and consort Maurice walk around Aldridge shopping centre blindfold

THE mayor of Walsall donned a blindfold and tried to navigate her way around part of the borough to raise awareness for those who have lost their sight.

Councillor Kath Phillips was joined by her husband and consort Maurice as they walked round Aldridge shopping centre with members of the Aldridge and District Lions Club as part of the Lions world sight day.

They were supported by the club's president Diane Price and membership chairman Mike Barker.

Mr Barker, aged 75, explained: "We have done lots in the past to support world sight day but despite other Lions clubs across the country doing this we had not, so we invited the mayor and her consort to try it out and were delighted when they accepted."

"They walked round the shopping centre without the blindfold and then we put the mask on. I got to take them both for a coffee afterwards and the mayor spoke

about how she found it a 'sober experience' and compared it to being in a dark cave."

"She also said it had never occurred to her how her and her husband would get on if they both lost their sight."

"Her consort said he had concentrated really hard during the walk without the mask but then as soon as it was pulled down he completely lost his concentration."

The Lions, which is an international organisation and has clubs all over the world, dedicated itself to helping the blind after blind and deaf member Helen Keller gave a speech in April 1925 calling on members to be 'knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness'.

The Aldridge club only has around eight members and anyone interested in joining can contact Mike either via his email – mikeb@lions105m.org.uk – or by calling him on 01922 456558.

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Judge gives offender a last chance warning

A DRUG supplier was caught red-handed by police working on the £14,000 cannabis farm he was cultivating in his house. Scott McLuckie, aged 36, was found by officers after the pungent smell led them to investigate on January 31, 2015. They found McLuckie tending to the 21 plants. There was also lighting equipment and a ventilation system in place.

He was warned by Judge Marcus Tregilgas-Davey he is now on his final warning after being nabbed for a third drug-related offence in three years.

"I bear in mind your guilty plea and the fact you submitted it at the earliest opportunity," he said. "It is clear that your offending is largely in part due to your own drug addiction."

"If you don't seek help now, your life is going to be very difficult. I will give you one final chance."

McLuckie, of Walsall Road, Willenhall, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to produce a Class B drug. He was given an eight-month sentence, suspended for two years, a six-month drug rehabilitation requirement and a 30-day activity requirement.

Prosecutor Andrew Wilkins told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "He pleaded guilty on May 7, 2015. It has taken this long for him to be sentenced because others were implicated in a case that went to trial."

"He has served a prison sentence for a similar matter."

Defending, Mr Richard Davenport said: "He is someone with a fairly chequered history."

Water company wins top award

WATER company Severn Trent, which supplies water and waste water services to more than four million homes and businesses across the Midlands and mid-Wales, won the utility of the year from the Home Builders' Federation of England and Wales.

The company was recognised for its efforts to improve relationships with major developers and taking a leading role in developing a new code of practice for self-lay companies that build their own water and sewer pipes.

The award was voted for by HBF members. Steve Betteridge, Severn Trent's head of developer services, said: "We're absolutely delighted to have taken this title. It's further proof that we're putting our customers at the heart of everything that we do."

Shop staff join in with clean-up

STAFF from Walsall Council and town centre retailers have taken time out of their working day to clean some of the streets in the borough.

A total of 28 staff from Greggs, Marks and Spencer, Debenhams, Boots UK, Wilko, Asda and Walsall Council's Town Centre and Mar-

Vow to clamp down on street drinking



Bus stops in Bradford Place

POLICE are looking to introduce a public space protection order to curb street drinking and anti-social behaviour in Walsall.

At present, there is only one similar order in force across the borough. It was introduced to the Beechdale estate in May and gives police the power to criminalise behaviour that is not normally criminal in a particular area.

Neighbourhood officers from the St Matthews police team hope to have the order in place by the end of the year to cover Walsall town centre.

They claim the move has been prompted by street drinking near the bus stops in Bradford Place becoming a major problem.

Sergeant Julie Whiting said: "Street drinking and anti-social behaviour have increased concern within the town centre in the location of Bradford Place."

She added the terminus appeared to be an attraction for social gatherings and drink related issues, causing concern for the local community and local businesses.

"There is currently a borough wide

designated public place order which prohibits the consumption of alcohol within that area," she said.

"Officers from St Matthews neighbourhood team proactively target those street drinkers who repeatedly commit offences using drunk and disorderly powers or issuing Community Protection Warnings against them."

St Matthews ward councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "We have had lots of issues over the past few months, mainly with street drinkers and I am glad to see the police are taking action."

Police make pledge to tackle town prostitution

POLICE have pledged to tackle prostitution in Walsall after dishing out 25 warnings to street workers and kerb crawlers in just one month.

Neighbourhood officers from St Matthews carried out the patrols on Wednesday Road throughout September, handing out 15 first warnings and five second warnings to sex workers, while issuing five men with kerb crawling notices.

One man was arrested for driving whilst disqualified.

Officers have pledged to continue cracking down on prostitution in the area, which has been identified as a 'vice area'.

Sergeant Julie Whiting, of the St Matthews neighbourhood team, said: "Prostitution continues to be one of our priorities on the St Matthews neighbourhood."

"We understand that this activity has a very negative impact on the community and local area."

"It is our aim to make this area a 'No Go' area for sex workers to loiter by targeting them and challenging those found committing offences of kerb crawling."

"Any persons found committing offences of kerb crawling or loitering for the purpose of prostitution will be dealt with robustly."

Diversion

"Identified street sex workers will be subject to interventions including warnings, cautions, arrest, charge and diversion."

"Persons found soliciting can be arrested, upon charge they will appear at court and potentially receive a disqualification from driving."

The clampdown follows increasing complaints in August from residents in Caldmore, who reported discarded sexual protection and associated drug paraphernalia littering the area to police.

Wednesday Road and others leading off it were identified as 'hot spots'.

St Matthews ward councillor Aftab Nawaz said: "I do share the residents' concerns."

"We need to look at the root cause and encourage these women to change their lives," he added.

"If we can get them to do something positive with their lives, rather than simply moving the problem on, then we will have achieved something."

Joint venture saves grocery business



Butcher Nick Moyle, from Palace Meats and grocer Nigel Povey

A LONG-standing Walsall green-grocers which was on verge of closing after four decades has been saved by a move to downsize and rent out half of their property to butchers.

Nigel Povey celebrated his 40th anniversary of trading in the town earlier this year but spiralling overheads and the aftermath of the recession meant he and wife

The arrival of Safeways in the early 90s brought about tight restrictions on parking which hurt

cinct at the end of last month. He said: "We couldn't cope with the overheads. We started the staff consultation and if we had not found a resolution we would have closed at the end of September."

Nigel Povey & Sons had three green-grocers in the town at one time, including shops at Leicester Street and the Victorian Arcade.

The situation was made worse by the closure of Butlers Passage - a key route to the business - for 10 months for a makeover.

passing trade to the Leicester Street outlet. It closed in 1993.

"That was the start of the rot," said Mr Povey who moved to close the unit in the Victorian Arcade in 2000. An increase in trade at Butlers Precinct saw it expand into an empty unit next door. But business has since dwindled.

The situation was made worse by the closure of Butlers Passage - a key route to the business - for 10 months for a makeover.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tackle vice at core, police told

POLICE need to tackle Walsall's prostitution problem 'at the core' according to a councillor.

Neighbourhood officers from St Matthews recently revealed they had been targeting sex workers in the ward during September, dishing out warnings to vice girls and kerb crawlers in just one month.

However, Darlaston councillor Doug James says he believes this approach only serves to 'push the problem' away from one area and into another.

He said: "We have seen this approach from police and it leads to more prostitutes coming to areas like Darlaston because they don't want to be caught by police. It needs to be a

Houses plan set for library site

DEVELOPERS have lodged plans to build houses on the site of the former Brownhills library.

There will be four semi-detached, three storey homes built on the corner of Bricklin Street and Short Street if Walsall Council planning officers give their approval. The site is located at the back of shops on Brownhills' High Street and opposite the Calvary Pentecostal Church.

Sutton Coldfield-based Spooner Architects have told Walsall Council in their application: "The site has been vacant for some time. The site needs to be developed for much needed housing in this locality."

Brownhills' new library opened at the Parkview Centre in June 2006.

MP in campaign to prevent scams

AN MP has championed a campaign to stop people from becoming victims of email and postal scams.

Warley MP John Spellar is urging people to 'Take a Stand Against Scams', and has pledged to work with communities across the Black Country to support those who are vulnerable to getting ripped off.

He has joined the work of the National Trading Standards Scams Team, the Chartered Trading Standards Institute and others who are working together to prevent people from being victims of scams.

Dental surgery plans approved

PLANS to convert a disused shop into a dental surgery have been approved, creating six jobs.

The building at 208 Broadway, Palfrey, is a former shop that has been out of use for three years.

Plans submitted by Dr Inderpal Johal will see it transformed into a dental surgery and have been given the go-ahead by planning chiefs.

Dr Johal said: "The dental practice is intended to primarily serve the local community and provide for people in need of health care advice and treatment."

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Cloudy2Clear Announce Trusted Trader Partnership

Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. 'Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople

perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle.

Locally Cloudy2Clear service Walsall & the surrounding areas and manager Brian Stanley agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good

business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise.'

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Tax claims on health company sicken me

THE chances are that when you visit your GP, you do not give too much thought to the nationality of the company which runs the practice, still less its tax affairs. As long as the doctor makes you better, the admin side is not your concern.

Even so, it must surely come as a bit of a surprise to the thousands of Black Country patients who this week discovered thanks to some excellent investigative reporting from the BBC's health correspondent Michele Paduano that Malling Health, which runs surgeries in Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton, is owned by a parent company in the Bahamas.

Even more controversial is the revelation that the NHS contractor has been using taxpayers' money to pay 20 per cent interest on a loan from the said parent company in the sun-kissed tax haven. As a general rule, I think people are too keen to get on their high-horse about tax avoidance. Most of us pay as little tax as possible, given the chance. It is why we take out Isas and ask our financial advisors about 'tax efficient' investments.

However, at a time when we are constantly told how NHS resources are under pressure, can it really be right that doctors' surgeries are sending NHS money abroad? If they really need to borrow money, which I suspect they don't, their high-street bank will loan it at a fifth of that rate. GP services are supposed to be about caring for patients, not playing city whizzkids.

□ □ □

WITHIN hours of claiming the weak pound was forcing it to increase the price of Marmite, the Unilever conglomerate backed down under pressure from Tesco.

Given that Marmite is made from a yeast by-product of breweries in Staffordshire, it is hard to see how currency fluctuations had much of an impact. The words 'opportunistic' and 'profiteering' spring to mind.

The big supermarkets often get a bad press. But Tesco deserves praise for standing up for the consumer.

□ □ □

FOR what it's worth – and I concede that is probably not a great deal – here is my prediction of what will happen when Staffordshire Council introduces its pay-as-you-go charging regime for people using the public tips next month.

Within a few weeks, shifty-looking characters will start sticking photocopied leaflets through people's door, offering a doorstep waste-disposal at half the price quoted by Staffordshire Council. People will use this service rather than the official one, and then one night the unofficial waste disposal operators will drive their pick-up to a local beauty spot and empty its contents. The council will then have to clean the site up, at the taxpayers' expense. And everyone's a loser, except the shysters with the pick-up truck.



White Out Staffordshire Moorlands by Margaret Jarvis



The Iron Bridge by Anthony Clemson



Carol Widenbar with her Rhinoceros sculpture

It's a change of art as group hits 100

Exhibition is back by popular demand and for the first time with a theme – metamorphosis, as reporter CARL JACKSON explains

DOZENS of artworks have gone on display in Wolverhampton including an exhibition dedicated to change.

Wolverhampton Society of Artists has held one show once every 12 months throughout its 100 years but it is returning to the art gallery on Lichfield Street for the second time in 2016 by popular demand, such was the success of the first display.

Seventy pieces are on show and will be available to view until November 13.

As well as the usual array of different works from members, the group has taken the opportunity to hold its first themed exhibition which is inspired by metamorphosis – the process of dramatic change or transformation.

The idea was the brainchild of the society's resident professional snapper Chris Manley.

Digital

Society member Carol Widenbar said: "We have one section on metamorphosis alongside the usual collection of works from members. It is a new idea this year to have a theme.

"There are one or two digital artworks for the first time. Although we are an old and established society we are trying to get ourselves into the 21st century.

"So our professional photographer Chris had the idea that because this was the first time we were embracing the digital form and the first time we were having a theme, that it should be around the reflection of change which or course is metamorphosis. The digital artworks are all original which have involved a computer in some way. We have not accepted photographs as that exists as another form."

The works were all submitted anonymously. Among those to look out for includes Ms Widenbar's ceramic rhinoceros which she said was an 'experiment that turned out to be quite cute'.

Another work sure to catch the eye is Sarah Stokes' 'Through the Looking Glass' which uses oil on glass to depict an eye. Visitors should also look out for Julia Timmins' Guineafowl wood carving.

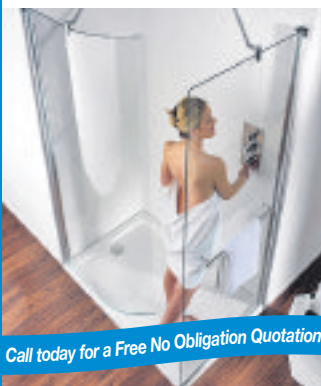


Plenty to see at Wolverhampton Society of Artists exhibition and, inset, The Third Stage: Wren's Nest Escarpment by Margaret Jarvis



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My memories of footballing wizard Duncan Edwards

SIR Bobby Charlton unveiled a tribute to Duncan Edwards. Duncan was an outstanding footballer from an early age.

In the 1950s I attended a trial for selection into the Worcestershire schoolboys' side and the trial was a complete farce.

Firstly, the organiser was not in control.

Secondly, Duncan was on the pitch throughout and he ran rings round both teams at the same time.

He was at the time well-established in the county and national teams and not on trial for selection. Nobody could get near him to get in a tackle and he ignored the organiser's constant shouts to pass the ball.

When he did decide to give the ball away he immediately recaptured it.

The whistle would be blown from time to time to enable a rotation of players and the

organiser would shout to Duncan for the ball. He never got it.

Duncan would stand on the spot, keeping the ball in the air with feet, knees and head or run round in circles with the ball at his feet.

We stood and watched in amazement. My own time on the pitch was short. As I kicked the ball with my 'wrong' foot, Duncan put his foot in front of the ball.

My left big toe has never quite returned to its original angle and caused me years of pain. The trial was certainly a farce and my own hopes were dashed swiftly and painfully.

The highlight of the day was watching Duncan and being 'maimed' in the process!

JOHN COLBERT
Walsall

Trident not universally supported

MR G Simpson of Darlaston (Chronicle, Sept 29, 2016) deploys skilfully the emotive symbol of a white feather to denigrate Jeremy Corbyn and his anti-nuclear stance, yet seems unaware of one key fact.

Our military is far from unanimously behind Trident (see report June 2015, British Military Attitudes to Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament by the Nuclear Information Service and Nuclear Education Trust).

Military chiefs know better than anyone the impact of the colossal expense of Trident upon our overall defence capability eg aircraft carriers without aircraft and RAF jets without anti-collision warning systems.

In 2016, the Falklands has no frigate or destroyer presence, and in the past two years, British territorial waters are increasingly protected by our NATO allies owing to our lack of maritime patrol aircraft.

How many other serious deficiencies are being kept secret?

IAN MINTER
Walsall

Also one of the 'rabble'

RE: 'One of the rabble', letters page, October 6.

Alan T Harrison has a good point.

As one of the 'rabble', I would de-select Tom Watson as an MP – he has faced accusations of being a bully and an enemy of socialist values, not to mention his own values.

I want nothing to do with him.

GRAEME CONNIGALE
Palfrey
Walsall

Labouring the point of immigration

ON June 23, over 17 million people decided to leave the EU. One of the main reasons was open borders and uncontrolled immigration.

Now Corbyn states that he will not 'offer false promises' on immigration numbers, meaning, carry on what Blair started with open door immigration.

I know some of the leavers will still vote Labour come what may, but if there's any logic to be applied at the next General Election, almost all of those 17 million, by rights, cannot vote for Labour or the Lib Dems because they still believe in uncontrolled immigration.

That leaves the Conservative Party and UKIP to procure the majority of the votes. UKIP says it will control immigration, while the Tories have promised to control it. So it appears that Labour under Corbyn still hasn't learned anything, and is to continue ignoring the will of the majority.

G SIMPSON
Darlaston

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Walsall Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
walsall.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

More action needed over memorial jobs

MAY I comment on the recent reports in your publication about the anti-social behaviour of certain individuals at the War Memorial, Bradford Place, Walsall. I observe police officers and PCSOs patrolling the Crown Wharf area of the town. I do not observe them in Bradford Place. Secondly, why aren't fines, Asbos and prison sentences being handed down to the individuals who are creating the problem?

As per usual, Walsall Council's collective negative response is to wring its hands and claim there is nothing they can do 'despite having obtained a borough-wide Designated Public Place Order' – what is the point of having such an order when it is unenforceable? Has anyone noticed the empty alcohol bottles and cans on every street and open space in the borough?

Thirdly, and this is the most important point, where are the residents of Walsall who are prepared to stand up and say to the individuals concerned that 'up with this we will not put?' Edmund Burke said 'for evil to succeed, it is only necessary for good men to do nothing' – have the residents of Walsall arrived at that point? Come on people – wake up and take action before it is too late.

E M WALTON
Walsall

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Home bargains on offer with properties auction

HOUSE hunters could grab a **Black Country** bargain today, **Thursday**, as several budget-priced homes go under the hammer.

Dozens of cheap properties in the region are going up for auction at Villa Park in various states of repair.

Some are fire-damaged, boarded up or incomplete, whereas some are more complete. The properties are being sold by Birmingham-based auctioneers SDL Bigwood, with homes from Middlesbrough and Liverpool also up for auction.

Among them is a property in Lewis Street, Great Bridge, a spacious three-bedroom end terrace property which is up for grabs for just £45,000.

Downstairs, the property has a porch, hall, reception room, kitchen, under-stairs cupboard, WC and rear conservatory. The first floor has three bedrooms and a bathroom/WC and there is also an attic above. There is a garden to the rear and driveway parking at the front.

The property benefits from having a gas fired central heating system and the majority of the windows are UPVC double glazed units.

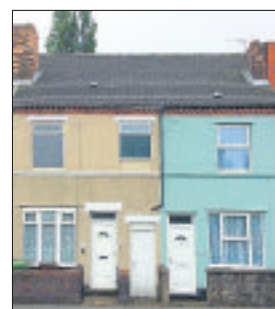
In Parkfields Road, Wolverhampton, £43,000 to £48,000 could bag you a cut-price two-bedroom terraced home. The property, handily located near the Birmingham New Road for commuting, features a lounge and dining room/kitchen on the ground floor, and a landing, two bedrooms and a bathroom/WC on the first floor. There is a small paved frontage and also a rear garden.

A three-bedroom end of terrace property in Providence Lane, Walsall could provide a tasty bargain for between £44,000 and £49,000.

The home in the Leamore area of



The Great Bridge house, at £45,000



Parkfield Road, Wolverhampton



£44-£48,000 - Providence Lane, Walsall



£60-£65,000 - Prince Street, Dudley

the town has plenty of amenities located close by. It boasts a hall, reception room, kitchen and downstairs bathroom on the ground floor, and a landing and three bedrooms upstairs. There is a garden to the rear and a small yard at the front.

And in Dudley, a two-bedroom

terraced home is available for just £60,000 to £65,000 in Prince Street.

The property in the Baptist End area of the town is close to Hillcrest School and Community College and is also handy for Netherton Park. The auction will commence from 11am at Villa Park's Holte Suite.



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School roads safety plan facing consultation

PLANS to make the roads surrounding a Darlaston primary school safer – which have been called ‘a golden opportunity’ – are set to go out for public consultation.

Walsall Council has put forward plans to introduce a safe school zone scheme outside Moorcroft Wood Primary School in Moxley and is currently asking parents for their opinions on whether reducing speed

limits on Bull Street would improve safety for pupils.

Darlaston councillor Doug James said: “Bull Lane has had issues. From fly-tipping, speeding cars, tyre fires and faulty video cameras which have needed urgent attention.

“Here is a golden opportunity to show that we aspire to safer and better things for our children.

“Let’s all get involved and make

Bull Lane a safer route into our School. Moorcroft Wood, head teacher, Andy Nicholls: “During my time here we have been fortunate enough not to have any serious injuries to children as a result of speeding cars but I have been told that that has happened before my time.”

The consultation will run until October 31, before being discussed by Walsall Council.

A healthier lifestyle is campaign goal



Sandwell Council's health chief, Councillor Ian Robertson launches the One You Walsall service with Marilyn Newton, Eileen Humphreys, Susie Gill, Mary Fairfield and Wendy Salisbury

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to help Black Country residents change their lifestyles and get fitter.

The One You Walsall scheme, run by MyTime Active, aims to spread the message that more people should get involved in exercise.

The group has been given a three-year contract by Walsall Council to spot negative and positive health aspects of people's lives.

The campaign is aimed exclusively at adults and asks them to look at their diet, stress levels, smoking habits, sleep patterns and drinking, amongst other aspects, to see how each

could be altered in order to create a happier, healthier lifestyle.

Councillor Ian Robertson, the council's portfolio holder for health, said: “We want to engage people so they become involved in our plans to create a healthier Walsall.

Interactive

“MyTime Active will be going out into town centres across the borough to speak to people, as well as maintaining an interactive website that allows people to see where they could do better.

“However, we don't want to focus on the negatives. People are often keen to put themselves down for their lifestyle as a whole but at the same time they may be doing things that are good but not recognising that.

“I think we all need to be thinking about our wellbeing, not just for ourselves but for Walsall as a whole.”

Earlier this year, a sign was put in the town centre reading ‘Welcome to Walsall, land of the fannies, be nice or be dinner’ – sparking controversy amongst community leaders who said that obesity was a key issue in the borough.



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£700k on programme to tackle home abuse

THE West Midlands' Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a new £700,000 scheme to tackle domestic violence.

The two-year 'domestic violence perpetrator programme' will cover the whole region and builds on projects in Sandwell and Walsall.

David Jamieson said the scheme would target husbands and boyfriends who commit domestic violence and abuse. The commissioner's office is now looking to appoint an organisation or consortium to deliver the programme. It aims to get offenders to change their ways, improve safety for women and children and reduce re-offending.

Crucial

Experts will work closely with them to reduce their offending and try to improve families' lives.

Mr Jamieson said: "Supporting victims of domestic abuse is crucial work that will continue. This project aims to reduce that abuse happening in the first place."

The project is a voluntary programme for fathers over 18 who have been asked to participate as part of a Child

By David Cosgrove

Protection Plan or Child in Need Plan.

A support service for their female partners and children will also be provided by the West Midlands Domestic Violence Consortium.

Deputy Chief Constable Louisa Rolfe said: "Whilst the police service has strived to improve the police response to domestic abuse and improve outcomes for victims, the impact is limited without a sustained effort to change the behaviour of perpetrators."

Kathy Cole-Evans, Wolverhampton Domestic Violence Forum manager, said: "This pilot programme will begin to address a significant demand for interventions to safely tackle the root cause of domestic violence and abuse."

Citizen of the year boost for Kevin



Kevin O'Reilly of Willenhall is presented with his award by Trevor Jones from Wolverhampton Lions Club

A DEDICATED judo coach, who even hobbled in on crutches whilst suffering with cancer to make sure youngsters could continue to compete, has been given a special award. Kevin O'Reilly, of Willenhall, has been a coach at Wolverhampton Judo Club, based on Duke Street, Wednesfield, for the last 26 years. During that time, he has taught judo classes to hundreds of youngsters, expanding classes to cater for those with special needs, learning difficulties, who are partially sighted or blind.

Not only that, but Kevin was diagnosed with cancer of the oesophagus in 2012 and since then has also fundraised for Cancer Research UK as well as the ward at Gloucestershire Hospital where he stayed. Kevin, aged 56, of Coppice Farm Way Estate, was presented with Wolverhampton Lion's Club Citizen of the Year Award on October 8.

The award, which is in its 38th year, seeks to recognise people who have made an outstanding contribution to their community. As part of the award, Kevin received a personalised winner's plaque, a cheque for £150 and a bottle of Halfpenny Green vineyard sparkling wine. His name will also be added to the club's community shield that has all the winners of the award. Kevin added: "I think it's testimony to how you can come through a serious illness when you have the right support, and how both judo and charity work can have a massive positive effect on your life."



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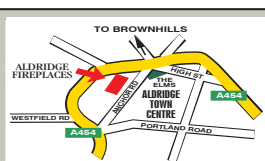
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New operator sought after post office shuts

Salon nails it for charity



Beth Connolly of Queen B's salon, based in Bloxwich, which is offering customers free nail care in return for a charity donation

A BEAUTY salon in Bloxwich is offering people the opportunity to get their nails done for free this month in return for a charity donation.

The Queen B's salon on Market Place is run by three sisters who recently qualified to become manicurists.

Any money donated for their work on fingernails in October will go to Breast Cancer Research.

They chose to support that charity because Beth, Katrina and Hayley Connolly's grandmother, Janet Connolly, died from cancer in March 2015.

The 74-year-old died from secondary lung cancer but was first diagnosed with breast cancer when she was just 50.

The salon will run other special charity events later this month.

A charity leg wax will be held there on October 21 and October 22.

As well as the donations from nail treatments, 20 per cent from all spray tans and treatments to lashes will also go to the charity this month.

To book an appointment, ring the girls on 01922 496273 or drop into the salon at 25 Market Place.

THE search is under way for a new operator at a post office in Walsall that closed without notice.

The Post Office has confirmed that the Yew Tree estate branch, on Redwood Road, closed on September 24 for 'operational reasons'.

The post office was located inside a newsagents.

The sudden closure has surprised those on the estate, with one disgruntled resident saying: "I just turned up to find that it was closed. There isn't another one for miles."

Darryl Magher, chairman of the Yew Tree and Tame Bridge community group, said: "There are concerns. We have a lot of elderly residents in the area who rely on the post office. And there aren't many nearby as we also lost the post office at the Delves."

Mr Magher said he was remaining positive about the prospect of finding a new operator.

Temporary

A Post Office spokesman said: "We would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused by the temporary closure of Yew Tree Estate Post Office."

"This is due to operational reasons. We would like to reassure customers that we are working hard to restore the service to the community as soon as possible and are committed to maintaining services in the area."

"Any retailer of small business owner interested in running the Post Office should email Mathew.r.wilkes@postoffice.co.uk or visit www.runapostoffice.co.uk

"In the meantime, customer can access Post Office services at any branch, including Fullbrook Post Office, Hawkes Close, Walsall and Gillity Post Office, 17 Liskeard Road, Walsall."

Mat Wilks, Post Office manager, said: "The retailer who takes on Yew Tree Estate Post Office will operate at the very centre of people's everyday lives."

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NHS trust overpaid workers by £345,000

WALSALL Healthcare NHS Trust has spent more than £340,000 in five years overpaying staff, it has been revealed.

A total of £345,897 has been paid out by the trust, which runs the Manor Hospital, between 2011 and this year.

In this period there have been 354 incidents of staff being overpaid, with an overpayment of more than £14,000 being made each year for the last three years to a nurse.

The largest overpayment for 2015/16 was £14,498 to a nurse, compared to £14,950 the previous year, £14,690 in 2013/14, £11,579 to a clinical support worker in 2012/13 and £5,168 to a doctor in 2011/12.

Last financial year the trust had 81 cases of overpaying staff, this is the second highest in the last five years, with 117 in 2014/15, 75 in 2013/14, 51 in 2012/13 and 30 in 2011/12.

Recouped

Overall the trust overpaid £70,031 this financial year, £79,175 last year, £83,419 in 2013/14, £80,619 in 2012/13 and £32,651 in 2011/12.

So far the Trust has recouped some £281,000 of the £345,000 it has overpaid.

In 2015/16 it recouped £80,674, this was down slightly on the £81,468 it recouped the year before but was massively up on the £45,945 recouped in 2013/14, the £48,456 from 2012/13 and the £24,695 from 2011/12.

On top of the £64,000 or so the Trust is still chasing in overpayments to staff, it is also still trying to recoup some £50,000 in medical costs when an overseas mother gave birth at the Manor.

The baby was born prematurely and required a substantial amount



Overpayments – Walsall Manor Hospital

of time in intensive/high dependency care, leading to a medical bill of some £50,229.

Not a penny of that money has been repaid, although the Trust told the Express & Star last month when the story was revealed that they are finding ways to recoup the money.

A spokesman said: "In this situation we follow a policy to ensure that we are repaid for the care we provide to overseas visitors. In this case, we have not yet been paid but are currently pursuing it in line with our policies. The overseas visitor was on holiday in the UK."

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Funding target for wheelchair is reached

A FUNDRAISING campaign to help a man who had his wheelchair stolen and then wrecked, has reached its target within hours of being set up.

Rachel Locket, from Wall-sall, set up a Go Fund Me page after a friend's brother-in-law had his wheelchair stolen and damaged near to his home in Brownhills.

The page looked to raise £700 to replace the wheelchair, and just hours later some £715 had been raised. This total included whopping donations of £245 and £100 from people who the family said they did not know. Ms Locket even revealed that half an hour after the appeal went on-line, a man from Devon had been in touch offering up a wheelchair.

The charity worker said: "When I saw on my screen that the target had been reached I cried, I could not believe it." The victim's sister-in-law, known only as Jane to protect his identity, added: "It is overwhelming the support we have received, it restores your faith in humanity."

Any extra money raised past the £700 for the wheelchair will go towards buying a protective lock to stop it from being stolen again. A police spokesman said: "Officers are currently reviewing CCTV and ask that anyone with any information gets in touch."

Those wishing to donate can visit www.gofundme.com/2u3905gcam

Ghostly figure caught on camera at Back to Backs

A BLACK Country mother claims she captured a ghost on camera at a West Midlands tourist attraction.

Ella Reeve, aged 30, snapped the ethereal figure during a visit to the Birmingham Back to Backs museum – a 19th-century courtyard of working people's houses run by the National Trust.

The mother-of-two, from Wolverhampton, had been to visit with her 81-year-old nan, as her late grandad was brought up in similar houses and she wanted to see how he might have lived.

Miss Reeve said the historic museum gave her a 'weird feeling' – but she had no idea she'd captured a spooky spectre on camera until she got home and looked through her pictures.

Devastated

She said she is adamant there was no-one else in the room and is convinced she managed to capture a ghost on camera.

"My grandad died two years ago, when he was 93, and I was absolutely devastated – we were so close," she said.

"I'd heard about the museum and knew he grew up in houses like that, so I wanted to visit to get that nostalgic feeling and feel a bit closer to him."

"When we went in I got a bit of a weird feeling and it was all a bit eerie – but it seemed fine when we were walking around."

"When we went into one room, I was left in there on my own as everyone else carried on upstairs and I decided to get a quick picture before joining them."

"When I was in there I got a really funny feeling – it went ice cold, and



The picture taken by Ella Reeve, with the mysterious shadow on the wall

I was all tingly and the hairs on the back of my neck stood up.

"But I didn't think too much of it, and carried on around the museum."

"When I got home and was scrolling through my pictures, I saw on one of them there was a white mist – but I thought maybe it was just the flash of my camera."

"But when I looked at the one from the bedroom, I could see a shadow – even though nobody had been in the room with me."



Part of the Victorian houses at the Back-to-Backs museum in Birmingham

"I knew it wasn't mine – the outline didn't fit with my shape, and it looked like a man's shadow."

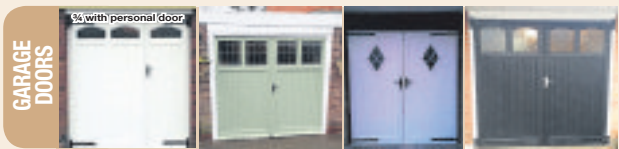
"As I looked closer, I saw there was no shadow on the bed, just the wall – if someone had been in there with me the shadow would've fallen on the bed as well."

"It was very weird, and it sent shivers down my spine."

"It is quite comforting to think it might be someone I know though – I don't think it was a bad presence."

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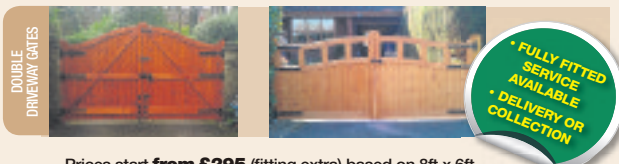
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Driver damaged officers' car after stingers used

A POLICE car was damaged and tyre stingers were used before a car chase came to an end, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Appearing via video link from HMP Birmingham, 28-year-old Craig Edwards pleaded guilty to dangerous driving on July 10.

Prosecutor Mr Geoffrey Dann described how the defendant was pursued by police up the M6 northbound, along the Black Country Route and Bentley Mill Way.

Despite one tyre on the Vauxhall Vectra being flat after police's deployment of stingers, and an attempt to block Edwards and his passengers in on the Bentley bridge, he continued his getaway by swerving past and damaging a police car.

Edwards had already been serving an eight-month and 85-day sentence for previous offences, and Judge Amjad Nawaz sentenced him to 10 months imprisonment to be served concurrently.

Giving details of the offences, Mr Dann said: "At 3am on Sunday, July 10, police officers were on duty in a marked police car on the M6. They had received reports of a Vauxhall Vectra car that had made off from officers in the Willenhall area, and had details from ANPR [automatic number plate recognition].

"The car appeared to stop as it approached junction 10 of the M6, and pulled into the near lane."

However Mr Dann described how the driver then appeared to change his mind. "It then pulled back onto the road and drove off. A police stinger device was deployed, but it continued and exited onto the Black Country Route."

Representing Edwards, Miss Jodie Smith said that her client had 'panicked': "He has suffered considerably from mental health problems. For many years he had undiagnosed schizophrenia. Thankfully it was in the early hours so it would have been relatively quiet on the roads."

In addition to his prison sentence, Edwards has been disqualified from driving for a total of 35 months. He also pleaded guilty to driving otherwise in accordance with a licence and with no insurance, for which his licence was endorsed.

Police name suspects



Johnny Connors, right, and left, Phillip Purcell, who are sought by police TWO men suspected of posing as council staff to trick their way into a pensioner's home before stealing from inside have been named by police.

Crooks targeted a 79-year-old woman at her Bilston home claiming they had been sent to carry out building work.

The victim invited two men inside and later discovered that two handbags had been swiped from a sofa. Hundreds of pounds were stolen.

Police have now named 20-year-old Johnny Connors and 22-year-old Phillip Purcell as people they would like to speak to over the burglary.

Both of are of no fixed address and have links to the travelling community.

Purcell is believed to have had his hair closely cropped since the dis-

traction burglary at around 5.30pm on August 25.

Detective Constable Paul Jones from Wolverhampton Police CID's Investigation Team, said: "Connors and Purcell have been identified as suspects. We believe they've conned a vulnerable pensioner."

"They do not deserve any protection and I would urge anyone who has information on their whereabouts to get in touch."

"Distraction offences of this type are truly appalling, an elderly lady, one who struggles to get around, has been deliberately targeted and we're determined to get justice for her."

Anyone with information is asked to call DC Jones on 101 quoting crime number WV/165650A/16 or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

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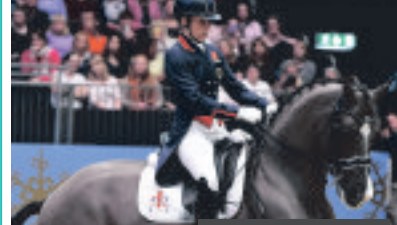
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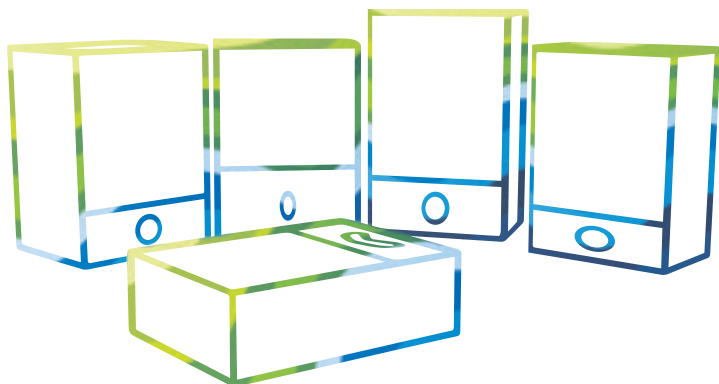
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Fridge freezers dumped by side of country lane

BRAZEN fly-tippers have struck again in Walsall after fridge freezers were dumped along a quiet country lane.

Walsall Council's Clean and Green staff cleared up to nine freezers and other rubbish after it was chucked along Bodens Lane near Barr Beacon on Thursday.

Richard Clarke came across the dumped rubbish as he drove along the lane during the afternoon.

He said the fly-tipping problem along there has been ongoing for about two years.

Mr Clarke, aged 45, said: "Apart from rush hour there is never much traffic along there so it's an ideal spot for fly-tippers. You might see small fly-tips, a dozen black bags, but about once a month you find one of these massive tips."

"The lane was completely blocked when someone had dumped building rubble across it eight or nine months ago. It was dumped on the Saturday and the council was there on the Monday."

Mr Clarke, from Stone Cross in West Bromwich, said he uses the road regularly because his daughter's horse is stabled nearby.

He added: "The only thing I can think that would solve the problem are covert cameras. But the council has been very good with removal."

The authority spends about £120,000 clearing fly-tipping every year and has secured convictions after people were caught on £4,000 cameras.

The Express & Star previously reported 1,000 complaints are sent to the council over litter and rubbish being dumped in Walsall every year.

Pheasey Park Farm councillor Christopher Towse, whose ward covers Bodens Lane, said: "What's the matter with these people? They have got no respect for other residents."



Fly-tipping dumped along Bodens Lane (picture taken by Richard Clarke)

Centre offers help to 10,000

MORE than 10,000 requests for help from a centre for vulnerable adults were made in Walsall last year.

The Glebe Centre, on Wednesbury Road, had 10,421 contacts using their services last year, which include free changes of clothing, shower facilities, hot meals and counselling.

Those who access the service are often homeless, suffering with mental health issues or drug addiction and also includes prostitutes, according to a report recently discussed at a Walsall

South Area Panel meeting, where the figures were revealed.

Councillor Aftab Nawaz, who represents the St Matthews ward where the centre is located, said: "I find these figures shocking, it is a true reflection of the austerity measures imposed on towns like Walsall. It is OK to keep making these cuts to local authorities but this is the real, human effect they have. We have more than 10,000 people accessing just one service for things like food and clothes."

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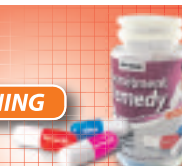
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Join us as students and staff celebrate the Academy's best ever Sixth Form exam results, and find out more about how we plan to build on this strength over the coming Academic year!

Over 90 per cent of A Level students and 100 per cent of vocational students passed their exams with some exceptional results. In English A Level, 100 per cent of students achieved pass grades, while 100 per cent of vocational business candidates achieved Distinction*.

Ambitions

Overall the percentage of students achieving a minimum of two A Levels increased to 77 per cent, up by 22 per cent on last year, with students being encouraged to raise their aspirations and take ownership of their own academic targets.

Lynsey Hobson, Assistant Principal, meets with all new students to identify their individual ambitions and abilities, and ensure they take the right courses to suit their chosen careers.

In-house career support and advice is available for all Post-18 career destinations, covering options such as apprenticeships, business training, and how to fill in university application forms.



Grace Academy in Darlaston, which has celebrated its best ever sixth form exam results and is holding an open day next month

While university is not for everyone, all students are invited to attend university open days, and talks by visiting universities, to broaden their horizons and show them the full range of opportunities open to them.

This year 75 per cent of leavers went on to university, with the other 25 per cent securing apprenticeships or going straight into employment.

Lynsey Hobson said: "We say to all our students that the opportunities are there for everyone and they shouldn't put barriers in their

own way, whether they are financial or mental. Actually all things are achievable and you can have these aspirations."

There is a dedicated staff team offering non-qualification workshops in money management, study skills, and recruitment skills such as filling in job applications and writing CVs, preparing students for the world of work. There are also a wide range of enrichment and extra-curricular activities on offer, including opportunities to mentor younger students, work experience, and volunteering in the local community.

All Post-16 students are given a laptop to support their studies, as well as having a dedicated IT suite and access to a range of other state-of-the-art facilities including a full-sized competition basketball sports hall, four external tennis courts, three full-sized grass football pitches and an all-weather multi-purpose pitch.

The Football Development Academy, run by ex-England International Andy Sinton, offers students the opportunity to combine their studies with an FA coaching qualification, First Aid and Safeguarding Qualifications, regular

training sessions and entry into competitive league games.

Speaking about the Sixth Form's unique approach to the studies of individual students, Lynsey added: "We are here to serve the local community and our doors are open to anyone to come and take a look. No matter what a student's academic ability, we might have an option that you are looking for so come and visit us."

Call 0121 568 3300 or email darlaston@graceacademy.org.uk



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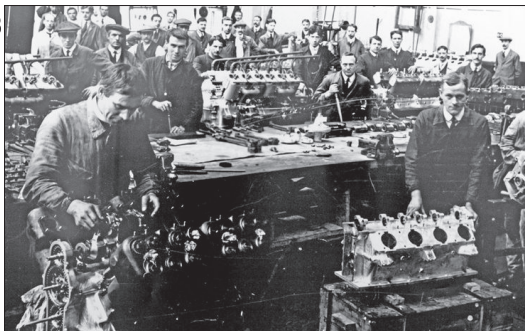
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Worker at Sunbeam Motor Car Company Blakenhall 1913



Hobson workers producing aircraft carburetors during WW1 at Accuracy Works



A Bordie helmet from WW2 made by Joseph Sankey and Sons



Guy Motors worker Hilda Durman checking parts at the factory during WW2

Keep calm and carry on working in war

THEY were buzzing hives of activity during conflicts and now a new exhibition is to pay tribute to the role played by Black Country factories in the war effort.

The Work in Wartime exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery highlights the scale and importance of factories in Wolverhampton and Bilston during the First and Second World Wars.

The exhibition features dozens of archive images from Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies and also original items, including Villiers engines, a motorcycle and bicycle used by the British Cyclist Corps during the First World War and a very rare Sunbeam military dispatch rider's motorcycle on loan from the Black Country Living Museum.

Also on show are objects, documents and photographs from factories including Boulton Paul, Guy Motors, Goodyear and Sankey.

MEMORY LANE

Report by Jessica Labhart

Councillor John Reynolds, cabinet member for city economy, said: "This is a fascinating look at the vital role so many factories and workers from the city made as part of the war effort."

As well as illustrating the range of factories involved in supplying British and other armed forces, the display aims to highlight social changes brought about by war - including many more women joining the workforce.

Modified

Boulton Paul was an aircraft manufacturer that began in 1914 in Norwich and moved to Wolverhampton. It lasted until 1961. The company mainly built and modified aircraft for other manufacturers but had a few notable designs of its own, such as the Defiant.

Guy Motors was a Wolverhampton-based vehicle manufacturer that

produced cars, lorries, buses and trolleybuses.

As early as 1923 Guy Motors was working on military vehicles, and by 1928 the company was making a six-wheeled armoured car for the Indian Government. In the late 1930s Guy's was heavily involved in the production of lorries and gun tractors for the British Army. Guy armoured cars were considered of such quality that they were used for the protection of the Royal Family and Winston Churchill.

The Goodyear Tyre & Rubber Company arrived in Wolverhampton in 1927. By the end of 1940 the company was Britain's second largest producer of aircraft tyres.

Joseph Sankey & Sons were a Bilston-based firm that produced steel helmets at their Albert Works in World War One, helping to save many lives. Sankeys no longer exists in Bilston. The Morrisons superstore now stands on part of the old site.

The free display at the gallery, on Mount Pleasant, is open until November 13.



A workshop at Villiers in WW2. The man is Bill Bough who worked there all his life

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Bonehead remembers being there, even now

They were the biggest band on the planet – in 1996, Oasis had the world at their feet.

They were the acme of rock 'n' roll. They drank champagne, snorted cocaine, hung out with supermodels and flicked the finger to waiting paparazzi.

Prime ministers and Hollywood A-listers wanted to be their mates. Their two Knebworth gigs held 250,000 fans but received ticket applications from 2.6 million. No band, other than The Beatles during the 1960s, had had such a profound effect on the nation's culture and psyche. So when Oasis booked Abbey Road Studios to record their third album, *Be Here Now*, the stakes could not have been higher. After the success of *(What's The Story) Morning Glory*, they had everything to lose and nothing to gain.

At the time of its release, *Be Here Now* was the most popular record of all time. It received unanimous and truly amazing praise from critics. It shipped 424,000 copies in the UK on the first day of its release and 696,000 by the end of the week, making it the fastest-selling album in British history. And though history has been unkind to the record, re-evaluating its artistic merit, it remains a sensationally popular record. Lauded as being the most effusively praised record since Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, *Be Here Now* was a unique recording.

Difficult

Rhythm guitarist Paul 'Bonehead' Arthurs recalls: "The sessions were difficult. We'd reached the height at that point and we couldn't make a move. Wherever we went, there was paparazzi and the whole media circus. All eyes were on us."

It could have been so different. There was a moment, at the start of *Be Here Now*, when Oasis could have exceeded expectation – when they could have justified the hype.

The album is now being remastered and reissued in October to commemorate 20 years since they started to record it. It will include the original demos laid down for the album, and these are what Bonehead remembers fondly. "Noel brought back the demos from Mustique," he reminisces. "They were incredible, they weren't usual Noel demos. Normally he'd send them with one or two acoustic guitars and a vocal and it was great. But he came back from Mustique and there were keyboards, bass, harmonies – they were fully fledged songs. It was really f***ing exciting."

"And then we were booked into Abbey Road, which is iconic. But from there, it

just went downhill. The paparazzi were breaking into the studio, looking for drugs, looking for a story. I was staying in an apartment with Owen, the producer, which was next door. We were living and sleeping there. But we had to put a disguise on before going to the shops in the morning."

On Definitely Maybe and (What's The Story) Morning Glory, Oasis had been able to switch off and focus when it came to recording. They were afforded no such luxury for *Be Here Now*. "Our sacred space was the studio."

"No matter how big or small you are, you shut the doors and get on with it. But the media circus was always in the back of our mind. Owen and I were in the apartment next door and it should have been incredible."

"But when I wanted to nip to the pub with Owen for a pint I wasn't allowed. We couldn't do it. We had orders from the office. There were paps outside."

Scrutiny

The record was made when the band were on the crest of a wave. They had no complaints about the fuss and scrutiny that surrounded them. They were living out their dreams. "It was mind-blowing at the time. It all happened so fast," adds Bonehead. "It's what we lived and breathed and what we wanted to do from the start. We wanted it more than anyone, we believed more than anyone. But poor old Liam would open his bedroom curtains and 40 f***ing cameras would be snapping away. I think he dealt with it admirably. I think he still does."

Be Here Now was the definition of ambition. While other bands were making three-and-a-half-minute Britpop songs, Oasis were recording nine-minute epics like *All Around The World* with 40-piece orchestras.

"Noel had that song from back at The Boardwalk, in Manchester. It could have gone on the first album but he said he wouldn't release it until he had a 40-piece orchestra. And by the time of *Be Here Now*, we could afford that. Now there's a man with a vision. He knew, even before the first album, where he was going."

Professional

"You know, the album eventually got slagged off. And as the years go by, even Noel has slagged it. But I personally love it. My Big Mouth, Magic Pie – what great tunes." Drugs were as common as tea, though Bonehead tended to steer clear.

"Yeah, there's all the drugs. And if Noel says he was doing a lot of cocaine then he was doing a lot of cocaine. But one thing's for sure, Noel wasn't snorting 10 minutes before he was putting a guitar part down, he wasn't doing it before he went on stage. We were too professional for that. I certainly



wasn't doing cocaine. On a Friday night I'd go home to my family while the others partied."

As a live act, there was no-one better in the world. During the mid-to-late-90s Oasis were on fire. That meant they never had a day off, which led to inevitable problems.

"There were loads of incidents. Liam would be like, 'f*** this, you can f***ing sing, I'm not doing this gig. I'm going to go and buy a house'. From day one to Knebworth, it was constant, man. In hindsight, maybe we should have taken a break."

"There should have been time to buy a car, have a holiday or buy a house. But we didn't. We kept going and going and going. We didn't complain. But s*** happens on tour."

"Generally you're big boys and it's forgotten the next morning. I had a good relationship with everyone. And I'm closer to Liam now than I've ever been in my life. I always used to say I was the rhythm guitarist and tour psychiatrist. If there was a little fallout when we were hurling down the motorway, I'd be the one pulling Noel and Liam apart and telling them to get over it and sit down. I always did jump in."

Iconic

Bonehead remembers the colossal nature of Knebworth – the iconic gigs that recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. Flying around the site by helicopter showed him the magnitude of the gig. "It was massive. It was enormous. Just walking on stage and hearing the crowd: I'll never forget that. Then John Squire joining us for Champagne Supernova was a total buzz. I was a fan-boy on stage when John Squire came on."

"When I first heard the demo for Champagne Supernova, I cried. I'm a Cancerian, so I'm pretty weepy. I'm nearly crying now. Noel had the song and he played it. We'd had a few beers. It was amazing."

It's been 20 years since the start of *Be Here Now* and Bonehead's had time to take stock. When Oasis were huge, he didn't dwell. Life moved too quickly for him to think. The safest place was in the eye of the hurricane.

"We didn't have a laptop. We couldn't Google ourselves or look on Twitter so we couldn't see what was going on. We didn't even have mobile phones. We were just



Brothers – Noel and Liam Gallagher

hurting round the world doing it and leaving this trail behind us."

"I didn't really realise how big it got. It really took me two years after leaving the band to work it out. I got my head round it in 2001/2 – that was when I realised it. Before that, it was a rollercoaster, let's go for it."

He's in touch with Liam every day. "I'm very close to him. We try to get away and have a weekend in Europe or go and have a week away."

He left when he knew he could no longer give it 100 per cent. "We were recording *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants* in France," he said. "It should have been the best time ever but it just felt a bit flat to me. There wasn't that spark. You couldn't be in that band and not give 100 per cent. Anything less, you had to go. I wasn't going to lie. I sat down and said 'it's time to go'. I've never regretted it. I just wanted to spend a bit of time with my family."

By Andy Richardson



The *Be Here Now* album is being re-released

The Million Dollar Quartet rock again

ROCK 'n' roll show Million Dollar Quartet is based on the true story of when Sun Records boss Sam Phillips brought together Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins in the same studio.

That impromptu jam session in December 1956 represented probably the ultimate rock supergroup featuring the founders and icons of rock 'n' roll, who also went on to energise the country music scene.

Staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to Saturday, the show will star Jason Donovan (himself no stranger to pop music fame) as the 'Father of Rock 'n' Roll', Sam Phillips, the man who launched several rock greats on the road to fame.

Legendary

The West End and Broadway show takes the audience inside the Memphis studio and brings to light an extraordinary story of broken promises, secrets and the poignant once-in-a-lifetime celebration of four friends.

Written by Tony Award nominees Colin Escott and Floyd Mutrux, Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary night to life featuring a score of hits including Blue Suede Shoes, Hound Dog, I Walk The Line, Great Balls of Fire, That's All Right, Folsom Prison Blues and Memories Are Made Of This.

Pop hit-maker turned stage star Jason Donovan said: "These songs



Million Dollar Quartet – recreating the night when rock icons jammed together

are so iconic of the era and they relate not just to that period but to music today. It's the foundations of music all around the world in every genre.

"I thought the music of that era was outstanding, it's fun. It was sort of a rebellious period. There's some big characters. Essentially the story

of Sun Records is an incredible music industry story about one man who took all these acts to the world."

And there is a local twist in that almost exactly ten years to the day that the session was recorded, 'The Killer' himself, Jerry Lee Lewis played a concert at Birmingham Hippodrome.

News fuels Omid show

AWARD-WINNING comedian and actor Omid Dhalili is coming to Wolverhampton as part of a massive 108-date UK tour of his brand new show Schmuck For A Night.

Of trying to make sense of the world around him in Schmuck For A Night, Omid said: "It'll be so current sometimes audiences won't laugh until they get home and turn on the TV."

As a stand-up and actor, Omid's credits range from Hollywood movies to productions on the West End stage. He has starred in films such as varied as Shaun the Sheep Movie, Mr Nice, Gladiator, Sex And The City 2, The Mummy and David Baddiel's The Infidel, in which Omid had the starring role.

He has also just been cast in Disney's new live-action production of The Nutcracker, which he will be filming alongside the tour. On TV recently, Omid has been seen in the BBC Four series Going Forward with Jo Brand, as well as in Dickensian for BBC1 and Stan Lee's Lucky Man for Sky1.

Documentary

Omid has also produced the acclaimed documentary We Are Many, about the global anti-war demonstrations that took place in 800 cities on February 15 2003. This August he produced an Edinburgh Fringe show called Iraq Out & Loud, which saw almost 1,500 people read out the Chilcot Report for 24 hours a day, over 12 days.

He is performing at the Wulfrun Hall in Wolverhampton on Saturday, and returns to the region to play Redditch Palace Theatre on November 4, Worcester's Huntingdon Hall on November 15 and Oakengates Theatre in Telford on January 18.

The Exorcist brings Halloween terror

BIRMINGHAM Rep has assembled a powerful cast for a new stage version of The Exorcist from tomorrow (Friday) to November 5.

The play by John Pielmeier is drawn from William Peter Blatty's novel, on which the double Oscar winning movie was based.

Peter Bowles (from TV's To The Manor Born) plays exorcist Father Merrin, called to help a young girl, Regan. Jenny Seagrove (from Judge John Deed) plays Regan's mother and Adam Garcia is the young priest who finds himself in a duel with the devil with Regan's soul at stake. It's for over 18s only with scenes and language that may shock.

It's Heaven, Divine or relearn your ABC

THERE is an 1980s nostalgia this week with Heaven 17 and ABC both in Birmingham.

Glen Gregory and Martyn Ware will perform Heaven 17's Penthouse and Pavement album in full and reactivate off-shoot group British Electric Foundation at Birmingham Town Hall tomorrow (Friday).

Martin Fry's ABC will be performing The Lexicon of Love and songs from its recent sequel at the Symphony Hall on Monday, the same night Neil Hanon's The Divine Comedy play Birmingham Town Hall. Or get up to date with JB's on Monday-Jake Bugg at O2 Academy or Justin Bieber at Genting Arena.

Minecraft fun and games with Dan

HE is one of the biggest names in the world – if you're into video game Minecraft. Now YouTube sensation DanTDM is coming to Birmingham with his smash hit brand of gaming chat.

The 24-year-old from Wellingborough has matinee and evening shows at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday and both are likely to be sold out.

Dan 'The Diamond Minecraft' Middleton has a YouTube channel with around 14 million subscribers where he posts his comic commentary videos, plus tips and advice for gamers. He said: "You can expect some custom-made TDM games and audience participation."

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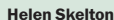
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Documentary charting one Lancashire school's efforts to inspire reluctant teenagers to take up reading for pleasure. Despite receiving otherwise outstanding Ofsted reports, Ripley Academy in Lancaster has been struggling to engage its pupils in one of the most important academic skills. Having exhausted every other technique across hundreds of books, the staff turn to comedian Javone Prince and Blue Peter's Helen Skelton for help in convincing their most reluctant readers to take the plunge.

11.50 Asian Provocateur: Mum's American Dream.
12.20 Film: Rogue. (2007) 1.50
Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.55 BBC News.

1.05 Andrew Marr's Great Scots: The Writers Who Shaped a Nation. (R) **2.05** **Film:** Renoir. (2012) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

than impressed with the bungling antics of five new recruits who have replaced his regular crew. Comedy, with Sid James.

11.30 Film: Locke. (2013)
1.10 Film: The Great Beauty. (2013)
3.35 Hollyoaks. (R) **5.45 Food**
Unwrapped. (R)

12.15 SuperCasio. **3.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **4.00** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R)

E4
11.30 Black-ish **2.00** The Goldbergs **3.00**
 The Big Bang Theory **4.00** Rude (ish)
 The Shorties **4.15** Miley: Stay a Little
 1999 **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00**
Film: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter
 (2012) **11.05** Gogglebox **12.10**
 The Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **3.20**
 Gogglebox **4.10** The Mindy Project
Film4
1.00 The House of Magic (2013) **2.40** A
 Monster (2011) **4.25** Fletcher
 (1985) **5.30** A League of Their Own
 (1992) **9.00** The Secret Life of Walter
 Mitty (2013) **11.15** Wanted (2008) **1.25**
 Madhouse (2004) **3.15** Close

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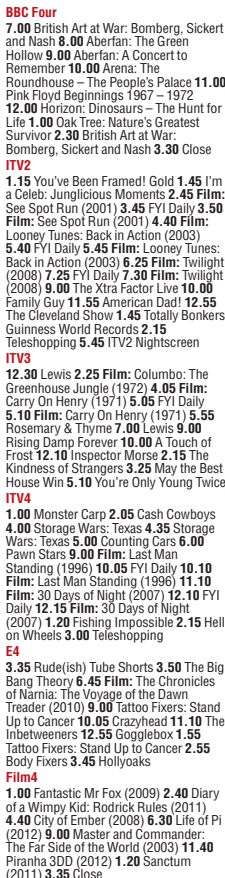
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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Cradle 2 the Grave, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A Taiwanese undercover agent helps a master jewel thief track down the international crimelord who has kidnapped his daughter and is using her as a bargaining chip to obtain a cache of rare black diamonds. Action thriller, starring Jet Li, DMX, Mark Dacascos, Tom Arnold and Gabrielle Union. (2003)

TUESDAY

A Father's Secret, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Ambitious young attorney Carrie aspires to become a partner like her fiancé, and eagerly accepts a billion-dollar wrongful death case in a bid to improve her standing in the legal profession. Thriller, starring Willa Ford. (2016)

WEDNESDAY

The Scorpion King, ITV, 10.45pm
A ruthless warlord resolves to rid the desert of its few remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the help of a legendary assassin to end the despot's reign of terror by destroying his source of power – a beautiful but deadly sorceress. Fantasy action adventure, starring Dwayne Johnson, Steven Brand and Kelly Hu. (2002)



Tombstone, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Tanu Weds Manu Returns, Channel 4, 1.10am
Sequel to the 2011 movie Tanu Weds Manu. The couple are living in London but have grown bored with each other, so Tanu returns to India, begins divorce proceedings and returns to her flirtatious ways. Romantic comedy, starring R Madhavan and Kangana Ranaut. In Hindi with English subtitles. (2015)

FRIDAY

Tombstone, Channel 5, 10pm
Renowned marshal Wyatt Earp becomes a professional gambler in the town of Tombstone, but is forced out of his retirement to take on a gang of hellraising villains no one else is prepared to stand up to. Joining forces with his brothers and drunken gunslinger Doc Holliday, he gets ready to face them in a showdown at the OK Corral. Western, starring Kurt Russell, Val Kilmer, Bill Paxton, Sam Elliott, Michael Biehn and Charlton Heston. (1993)

The final is set to end in tiers all round

When it was announced earlier in 2016 that The Great British Bake Off was moving to Channel 4, for many that was the final (cheese) straw.

In a year when we had to say goodbye to British legends Terry Wogan, David Bowie, Victoria Wood and Alan Rickman, as well as the shock Brexit result, the loss of one of the best loved shows on BBC One was too much to bear.

After series seven, no longer would we get to experience that twinkle in Mary Berry's eye as the whiff of a boozy cake wafted under her nose.

The thought of losing Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins was also horrific. The Light Lunch veterans provided a shoulder to cry on when the cookies didn't crumble the way contestants had hoped, or soufflés collapsed like a bouncy castle's close encounter with a siletto heel.

Obviously as the Beeb is paid for by the license fee, the thought of spending a fortune to keep it on an advert-free channel proved richer than a fruit sponge for the powers-that-be.

So, like former Beeb favourites Morecambe and Wise and The Voice UK, it will head for the land of ad breaks.

Though many might disagree, this has been one of the best years so far for invention, daring and downright nail-biting entertainment.

Who could forget Candice Brown's edible pub, or dazzling marzipan peacock?

Certainly not the millions of fans who were marvelling over her creativity while wondering where she got her inspiring ranges of lipstick.

Then there's Selasi Gbormittah, the Londoner who was the epitome of calm under pressure. His culinary creations also took the breath away.

And who didn't marvel at the work of Andrew Smyth, the Eddie Redmayne lookalike whose bakes were often Oscar worthy – if there was an award for most mouthwatering creations?

There were so many other contestants in this series who measured, whisked, stirred and kneaded while making silent prayers

by their respective ovens that the silver fox would give his approval.

Yes, Paul Hollywood, the only GBBO veteran preparing to make the leap to Channel 4, has long been the hardest to please in this contest. Though Ms Berry summations have seemed spot on, Liverpool's most fearsome baking expert has never suffered fools gladly.

So whoever wins this edition, those final trials will be anything but a piece of cake.

But before the victor is announced around 8.55pm, spare a thought for all those incredible contestants who have won our hearts over the past six years.

Edd Kimber, Joanne Wheatley, John Whaite, Frances Quinn, Nancy Birtwhistle and Nadiya Hussain may have all clinched victory, but also rans such as Ruby Tandoh and occasional 5 Live contributor Flora Shedden often proved to be just as entertaining.

With talk of a new BBC baking show featuring Mel and Sue, let's hope that whatever happens for the splintered GBBO team, things don't end here.



The Great British Bake Off: The Final, Wednesday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Autumnwatch 2016 BBC2, 8pm

It's not hard to see why Chris Packham and Michaela Strachan's nature series have become so popular. Aside from the often stunning footage of wildlife at different times of the year, there's the added bonuses of celebrity guests giving us their takes on the findings, and the dry putdowns of Packham when they deliver their artwork. As the new run begins, Chris, Michaela and Martin Hughes-Games are at Dorset's RSPB's Arne nature reserve, where they survey the local wildlife preparing for winter.

Saving Africa's Elephants: Hugh and the Ivory War BBC1, 9pm

Every day more than 80 elephants are killed in Africa for their ivory, with experts warning that the African elephant could be extinct in the wild within 25 years if that rate continues. In this two-part documentary, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall goes on a mission to find out how this illegal trade can be stopped, beginning in the poaching hotspot of northern Mozambique. Hugh follows the trail through the Kenyan port of Mombasa to one of the busiest ivory markets in the world – Hong Kong.

TUESDAY

Ordinary Lies BBC1, 9pm

After finding a note in her boyfriend Neil's pocket, personal assistant Holly convinces herself that he's having second thoughts about their relationship. Desperately unhappy and anxious, she starts to reminisce about her old flame, Adam Carver. Discovering that he is newly single, Holly assumes a new online identity to try and win back his affection. Meanwhile, newly divorced Ally is ecstatic when intern Ash asks her out on an official date. Drama, starring Kimberley Nixon.

WEDNESDAY

Little British Isles with Alison Steadman Channel 4, 8pm

Alison travels across the English Channel to discover more about the idyllic life found on the Channel Islands. In Jersey, she dives into their cultural traditions and helps inseminate the iconic Jersey cow, and finds out more about how this island continues to hold onto its own traditional values. On Alderney, Alison discovers more about the abundance of wildlife found on the island.

Him ITV, 9pm

After losing control of his powers and almost destroying his father's house, HIM's parents struggle to work out what is best for their son. His relationship with his step-sister Faith is pushed to its limits as he continues to fight his feelings for her, adding extra strain to his already unstable emotional state. Meanwhile, HIM discovers some unnerving truths about his grandfather's inherited powers after a visit to his grandmother's.

THURSDAY The Apprentice BBC1, 9pm

For their latest task, Alan Sugar summons the candidates to the Draper's Hall, where he informs them they are entering the luxury retail business, with each team taking over an area of world-famous department store Liberty of London. Over the course of two days, they must provide a personal shopping service for some of the capital's most discerning customers.

FRIDAY

Secrets of Great British Castles Channel 5, 8pm

Historian Dan Jones begins a new run of the series in Edinburgh. These days, the city's stunning castle is a well-known landmark, but it has had a traumatic past and is widely thought to be Britain's most besieged stronghold. Its hilltop location made it the ideal place for an Iron Age base, and the spot has housed a military facility ever since; it is also Scotland's most popular paid tourist destination and an event that took place there is said to have inspired the Red Wedding in Game of Thrones. Jones also discovers that the castle was the target of the world's first aerial bombing.

Still Game BBC1, 9.30pm

Jack and Victor become unlikely marriage guidance counsellors when Fergie's head is turned by beautiful redhead, Kayleigh. While his wife of just one year, Sinead, is blissfully unaware her husband is lusting after another, Jack and Victor share their wisdoms about modern women's needs with Fergie. However, their well-meaning advice proves to be less than helpful. Meanwhile, Navid and Boobby job-swap to prove who has the cushiest career. Comedy, starring Ford Kiernan and Greg Hemphill.



The Apprentice, Thursday, BBC1, 9pm

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- 29 OCT • JERSEY BOYS & LONDON
- 5 NOV • MANHATTAN MIA & LONDON
- 5 NOV • BRITAIN: THE CAROLING MUSICAL & LONDON
- 12 NOV • MOTOWN & LONDON
- 19 NOV • ALADDIN & LONDON
- 19 NOV • KINKY BOOTS & LONDON
- 24 NOV • CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY & LONDON
- 24 NOV • ELVIS IN CONCERT SCREEN SPECTACULAR
- 26 NOV • LES MISERABLES & LONDON
- 26 NOV • WICKED & LONDON
- 3 DEC • BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL IN MANCHESTER
- 3 DEC • PHANTOM OF THE OPERA & LONDON
- 3 DEC • JERSEY BOYS & LONDON



CHRISTMAS MARKET WEEKENDS

- LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
12, 19, 26 NOV Xmas party night + most drinks 2 for 1 6-9pm £69.95
- EXETER & BATH CHRISTMAS MARKETS
26 NOV, 3, 10 DEC Xmas party night in Torquay Hotel £69.95
- CHATSWORTH AT CHRISTMAS & CHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKET
19, 26 NOV, 10 DEC Admission to Chatsworth House included £89.95
- GRASSINGTON DICKENSIAN FAYRE & SKIPTON XMAS MARKET
3, 10 DEC Xmas party night & glass bubbly in Blookpool hotel £79.95
- YORK ST NICHOLAS FAYRE & BUXTON CHRISTMAS WONDERLAND
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Murder-mystery themed evening on Sat evening
3 DAYS £99.95
TWO NIGHTS HALF BOARD
LLANDUDNO Loretta Hotel
FRIDAYS 28 OCT
18 NOV (includes Chester Xmas Market), 2 DEC



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2 DAYS FROM £69.95
OVERNIGHT HALF BOARD
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SAT 19, 26 NOV, 3, 10, 17 DEC, WED 28 DEC (SALES!)



LIVERPOOL BEATLES & CHESTER
2 for 1 BAR 6pm-9pm (T&C APPLY)
5 DAYS £199.95
4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD Adelphi Hotel
• Includes Beatles Tour & Cavern Club, Mersey River Cruise & Visit to Chester
MON 28 NOV



CHRISTMAS PARTY TRIBUTE WEEKENDS

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- LEEDS CHRISTKINDLEMARKT & YORK ST NICHOLAS FAYRE
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- 4 DEC • DIANA ROSS
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• Includes visit to Snowdonia & the Isle of Anglesey and historic Conwy
MON 28 NOV, 5 DEC



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3/4 NIGHTS HALF BOARD New Astoria Hotel, Ostend
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4 DAYS FRI 28 OCT, 2, 9 DEC
5 DAYS MON 5 DEC

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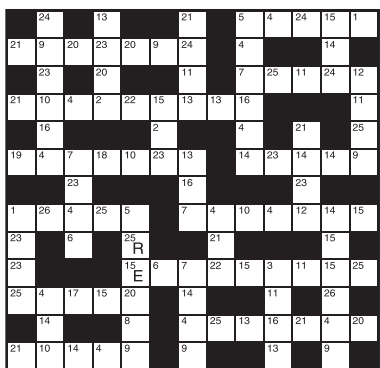
NEW



BRAIN GYM No.400

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

H	T	A	P	D	O	E	M	N	F	B	G	L
Y	W	C	V	Z	Q	U	R	J	K	I	X	S

1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

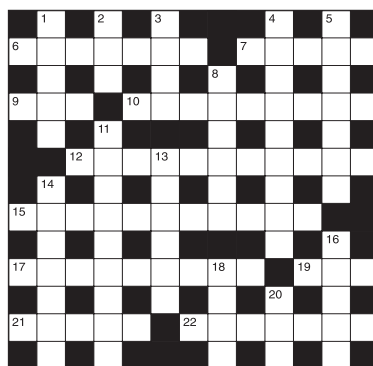
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Sum invested in chief city (7)
- Craftsman, mother and boy (5)
- See 20 Down
- Making comments on the teacher's second correction of the work (9)
- Sly when short of workers? (11)
- Off the cuff, formerly not being intended to last (11)
- Grief's fun when in pain? (9)
- Little Dorothy returns in custody (3)
- Live amicably in order to prosper? (3,2)
- Again poetry can cause a setback (7)

Down

- Request male to leave fruit (5)
- Got teeth into a piece (3)
- Strain of people in athletic competition (4)
- Support first attempt on the rear door? (4,5)
- A reckoner in the shop? (7)
- Metal disc for getting clothes clean (6)
- Less than 12 inches being trodden on (9)
- Specialist was formerly saucy (6)
- Egghead has 90 applications for apologies (7)
- Raise one in the throng (5)
- A requirement of Eden (4)
- 20 & 9Ac. The males grow old in this household (6)



Quick Clues:

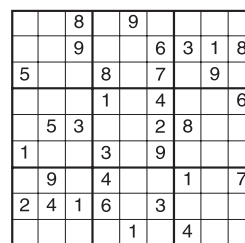
Across

- Lasting (7)
- Deluge (5)
- Not many (3)
- Shelter (4,5)
- Poor (11)
- Valise (11)
- Razed (9)
- Concealed (3)
- Condescend (5)
- Narration (7)

Down

- Silent (5)
- Manner (3)
- Entreaty (4)
- Unreasonable (9)
- Sad (7)
- Outcome (6)
- Copy (9)
- Dodged (6)
- Defile (7)
- Demon (5)
- Apiece (4)
- Lad (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	5	9	6	4	1	7	3	8
1	8	7	9	5	3	6	4	2
4	3	6	8	2	7	5	9	1
7	1	2	3	6	5	4	8	9
9	4	5	7	1	8	3	2	6
3	6	8	4	9	2	1	7	5
6	9	3	5	8	4	2	1	7
5	2	4	1	7	9	8	6	3
8	7	1	2	3	6	9	5	4

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bard; 3 Moribund; 8 Brag; 9 Flashing; 11 Humiliations; 13 On time; 14 Scorer; 17 Raise the roof; 20 Nobleman; 21 Dine; 22 Pressing; 23 Ages. Down: 1 Babyhood; 2 Readmit; 4 Oilcan; 5 In stitches; 6 Union; 7 Dogs; 10 Old masters; 12 Triflers; 15 Rioting; 16 Strain; 18 Ambler; 19 Snap. QUICK - Across: 1 Drop; 3 Wretched; 8 Safe; 9 Corridor; 11 Excursionist; 13 Strive; 14 Victor; 17 Amelioration; 20 Calendar; 21 Sure; 22 Nonsense; 23 Deny. Down: 1 Dispense; 2 Officer; 4 Rookie; 5 Tyrannical; 6 Hades; 7 Dark; 10 Prevalence; 12 Princely; 15 Tribute; 16 Morass; 18 Melon; 19 Scan.

Thinking space

Quiz

- Which book is also called the Book of Changes?
- From which bean is chocolate obtained?
- In which country did John Bull compose the British national anthem?
- Which Labour leader's middle names were Todd Naylor?
- How many riders take part in a speedway heat?
- In which city did the St Valentine's Day Massacre take place?
- With what is the Weddell Sea usually covered?
- What is the longest river in Scotland?
- With which motor-racing team did Damon Hill become Formula One champion?
- What type of creature is a merganser?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Doorways and passages; 2 Malcolm Bradbury; 3 A whale; 4 Polaris; 5 Walter Scott; 6 John Updike; 7 Three; 8 March 17; 9 Atlantic; 10 John.

Niner: DOCTRINES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

6321 gives a painter,
82539 gives a composer,
1793411 gives another composer.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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The lovely pool to help holidays go swimmingly inside Evolution Health & Fitness



Pine lodges nestled in among the trees at Darwin Forest, near Matlock

Lots Tor write home about after stay in Darwin Forest

By Graeme Andrew

FOR the perfect get-away-from-it-all holiday, in the heart of one of the most beautiful parts of the country, look no further than Darwin Forest Country Park near Matlock.

Bringing nature to the fore, luxurious facilities and backed by an enviable ecological ethos, this beautiful 44-acre park of pine lodges – set among some of the most spectacular landscapes in Britain – is ideal for both families and couples, looking for a break to remember.

Just stepping out of the car on arrival, immediately the freshness in the air took my breath away as I gazed upon rabbits scuttling around in the undergrowth. Then into the lodge itself, one of 100 sparingly dotted around the park, with enough space between to offer a real feeling of comfortable isolation – unlike some holiday parks where you can see what your neighbours are eating for breakfast.

Membership

Beautifully kitted out with all the mod-cons you will ever need, the lodges provide five-star self-catering luxury with a surprising amount of space, and if you are so inclined, a hot-tub all to yourself. Darwin Forest is a perfect base for touring and my wife and I had already taken advantage of our National Trust membership and visited Hardwick Hall before our arrival.

The highlights? An amazing walk, a huge pot of tea, and a stumpery in the lovely gardens – yes, a Victorian idea of building a unique wilderness around tree trunks with their gnarled shapes. Alan Titchmarsh would be proud.

We opted for a couple of walks during our stay, which at some points became scrambles, with a fair few hundred feet either side of us, but stunning nevertheless – Mam Tor at Castleton and the thrilling Chrome Hill, near Hollinsclough.



The majestic Mam Tor, near Castleton, also called the Shivering Mountain, following landslides

It was particularly surreal to come across what was described as 'the broken road' near Mam Tor – basically a landslide some years ago put paid to Castleton having a main road out of the village after it collapsed and pedestrians now have access to this unique experience of walking on something akin to a disaster movie film set.

We interspersed our exertions with excursions to Matlock Bath and the Heights of Abraham – a must-see, considering our location; along with visits to the charming Chesterfield and Buxton, with its pretty Pavilion Gardens.

But the beauty of Darwin Forest is the vast spectrum of facilities and activities on offer, so that if you're not in the mood for tootling around and just want to spend time among the pines, there is plenty to do.

There are superb leisure facilities available, a lovely swimming pool, well-stocked gym as well as beauty treatments, with my other half opting for the de-stress massage session, and she gave that a big thumbs-up, having been trained as a masseuse herself. There is plenty to offer for the youngsters, with its Little Monkeys play area

and the Activity Den that has arcade games, table tennis, air hockey and pool tables, to keep the bigger kids happy.

Everywhere you look there is a real feeling of everything being in its right place, with lovely décor for instance in the Foresters bar and restaurant, plus the Explorers café – perfectly complementing the unique surroundings. Families with dogs are welcome too and there are plenty of trails for walking and cycling, with bikes also for hire. An all-weather tennis court and mini-golf course is available for the more sporty types.

Finally, we did try the Trim Trak – a trail including a few physical challenges along the way! I thank the lord that there was no CCTV to record my attempts at the monkey bars and climbing wall, where it took all my gumption, despite scaling the heights of the Peak District, to come down the other side, sliding down a 10ft high wooden bar!

Still, at least the rabbits had a good laugh... For further information on Darwin Forest, call 01629 732428, email enquiries@darwinforest.co.uk; or log onto www.darwinforest.co.uk.

Lunch with Santa

at Village Walsall

4th/11th/18th December

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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

27
The Chronicle Thursday, October 20, 2016

Three-bedroom semi-detached in sought after area

On the sought after Riverpoint Estate, this three-bedroomed semi-detached house is for sale through Paul Dubberley at £175,000.

It has an entrance porch, an entrance hall, a lounge, a kitchen/diner, landing, three bedrooms (master en suite), a loft room, a shower room, garden and a garage.

In more detail the entrance porch has a door to an inner hallway. The entrance hall has laminate flooring and stairs off to the first floor and a door to the lounge. Having laminate flooring the lounge has a door to the kitchen and a door to an under stairs storage cupboard.

The kitchen/diner has a range of wall and base units, roll top working surfaces, a stainless steel sink with a mixer tap, tiled splash-backs, an integrated electric oven, a gas hob with an extractor over, a useful breakfast bar, sliding patio door to the rear, laminate flooring and a door to the garage.

The landing has carpeted flooring and doors to the bedrooms, family shower room and the loft room.

Bedroom one has carpeted flooring, fitted wardrobes and a door to an en suite. This has a shower cubicle with an electric shower over, WC, wash basin, part tiled walls and Linoleum tiled flooring. Bedroom two is carpeted, as is bedroom three.

The family shower room has a WC, a wash hand basin, a corner shower cubicle with an electric shower over, an extractor fan and Linoleum tiled flooring. The loft room has two Velux windows to the rear, is carpeted and has ceiling spotlights and power sockets.

Outside, the rear garden has a slabbed patio leading to a lawn area beyond.

The garage has an up-and-over door and a door providing rear access.

Established in 1992, Paul Dubberley is a leading estate agent providing a comprehensive service to its customers including residential sales, residential lettings, property management, auctions, land and new homes, conveyancing and mortgage advice.

WILLENHALL £175,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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EMAIL: [willenhall@](mailto:willenhall@pauldubberley.co.uk)

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KEY FEATURES

3 bedrooms

Loft room

Master en suite

Kitchen with oven & hob

Garage & garden



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K. Stuart Swash

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PROPERTY

Well-presented three-bed semi

This well presented three-bedroomed semi-detached property in Ingledew Close, Bentley lies on the ever popular Briarsleigh Estate On The Bentley/Willenhall Border.

It is for sale through L&S Prestige Estates at £155,000.

Its living accommodation briefly comprises of an entrance porch, hallway, spacious lounge, a fitted

BENTLEY

£155,000

<<<

kitchen with a separate dining area, a utility room and a ground floor WC. The first floor has three bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property also benefits from having double glazing and gas central heating throughout.



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- Lounge, Dining Room
- Dining Kitchen
- Utility Room, Bathroom
- En-Suite, Cloakroom
- Garage, Driveway

£975pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL

- Second Floor Flat
- One Double Bedroom
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Electric Heating
- Part Furnished

£295pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- First Floor Split Level Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen With Hob & Oven
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating

£435pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

EDWARD COURT, WALSALL

- Second Floor Flat
- Lounge, Bathroom
- Fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- UPVC DG, GCH
- Carport

£550pcm - plus fees

EPC: E

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON

- Split Level Flat
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- GCH & Part Double Glazed

£395pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

WOODRUFF WAY, WALSALL

- First Floor Maisonette
- Hallway, Lounge
- New Kitchen & Bathroom
- One Bedroom
- UPVC DG, Electric Heating
- Two Parking Spaces

£425pcm - plus fees

EPC: F

PARKLANDS GARDENS, WALSALL

- Ground Floor Flat
- Part Furnished
- One Bedroom
- Kitchen With Some Appliances
- Bathroom, Lounge
- Garage

£450pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

CHURCH STREET, DARLASTON

- Ground Floor Flat
- One Bedroom
- Reception Hall
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Shower Room
- DG, Electric Heating

£350pcm - plus fees

EPC: F

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, BLOXWICH

- Ground Floor Flat
- Hallway, Lounge
- Kitchen, Shower Room
- UPVC Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Front Garden

£350pcm - plus fees

EPC: D

BRADFORD STREET, WALSALL

- First Floor Flat
- Lounge, Kitchen
- One Bedroom
- Store Room
- Shower Room
- Electric Heating

£295pcm - plus fees

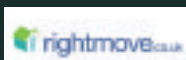
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Woodcote Road Wolverhampton



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 - Dining Room
 - EPC - D, Downstairs w.c
- OFFERS AROUND: **£300,000**

Lakelot Close Willenhall



- Large Family Home
 - Two Reception Rooms
 - Four Good Sized Bedrooms
 - Master En-Suite,
- Viewing: **£215,000**

Riverbank Road Willenhall



- Three Bedrooms - Master Ensuite
 - FANTASTIC FAMILY HOME
 - Large Useful Loft Room
 - Family Shower Room,
- Viewing: **£175,000**

Moseley Road Willenhall



- Traditional 3 bedroom detached house
 - Entrance porch and hallway
 - Dining room
 - Lounge/diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£170,000**

Furzefank Way Willenhall



- Two Bedrooms
 - Viewing essential
 - Semi Detached
 - Rear Garden,
- Viewing: **£145,000**

Tarn Close Wolverhampton



- BRAND NEW BUILD!
 - NO CHAIN
 - Two Bedroom Terraced Home
 - EPC - TBA, Lounge/Diner
- OFFERS AROUND: **£120,000**

Mount Road Willenhall



- Three Bedroom Home
 - Double Glazed And Central Heated
 - Lounge/diner
 - Fitted kitchen,
- Viewing: **£114,000**

Drancy Avenue Willenhall



- Two Bedroom
 - Town House
 - Ideal First Time Buy
 - Downstairs W.C,
- Viewing: **£110,000**

Tyler Road Willenhall



- Three/Four Bed Family Home
 - Lounge
 - Modern Kitchen Diner
 - EPC - TBA, Downstairs Bedroom And Wet Room
- OFFERS AROUND: **£105,000**

Yale Road Willenhall



- Top Floor
 - Two Bedrooms
 - Garage
 - Lounge,
- Viewing: **£100,000**

Poplar Avenue Walsall



- Three Bedroom Semi
 - Large Lounge
 - Modern Kitchen
 - EPC - D, Three Bedrooms
- OFFERS AROUND: **£94,950**

Essington Way Wolverhampton



- Two Bedrooms
 - Ground Floor
 - Modern Apartment
 - Kitchen,
- Viewing: **£79,950**

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- OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**

Martin Drive Willenhall



- 3 Bedroom detached house
 - 3 Double bedrooms
 - Good sized garden
 - EPC - D, Modern kitchen
- OFFERS AROUND: **£145,000**

Bloxwich Road South Willenhall



- EXTENDED 3 BEDROOM SEMI
 - LOUNGE
 - LARGE KITCHEN
 - EPC - TBA, LARGE CONSERVATORY
- OFFERS AROUND: **£140,000**

Lord Street Walsall



- POTENTIAL TO EXTEND (SUBJECT TO PLANNING)
 - LARGE LIVING
 - MODERN BREAKFAST KITCHEN
- Viewing: **£130,000**

Highfield Road Tipton



- Two Bedroom detached bungalow
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 - Lounge with open plan kitchen
 - High Specification Bathroom
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Dillways Lane Willenhall



- Immaculate 3 Bedroom Apartment
 - Large
 - Modern kitchen
 - EPC - D, Large bedroom
- OFFERS AROUND: **£78,000**

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- OFFERS AROUND: **£249,995**

Lime Grove Bilston



- SIZE 1100sq ft, Viewing Recommended 3 Bedroom detached property, Driveway, Entrance Porch, and a large Lounge/Dining area, Kitchen, Bathroom, Central Heating and Double Glazing
- OFFERS AROUND: **£85,000**

Wellington Road Bilston



- IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE, BENEFIT FROM REFURBISHING
 - Traditional Detached 3 Bedroom House, off road
- OFFERS AROUND: **£145,000**

Denville Close Bilston



- This 1 bedroom detached house which is in a cul de sac, is just a short distance away from Bilston town centre. The property which is double glazed and gas central heated through out briefly comprises,
- OFFERS IN THE RE- **£160,000**

Moorcroft Bilston



- Deceptively Spacious Semi Detached Bungalow In A Quiet Cul-De-Sac Location.
 - Benefiting From Double Glazing And Gas Central
- OFFERS IN THE RE- **£104,000**

Kendrick Place Bilston



- Three Bedroom Family Home In A Quiet Cul-de-sac With Open View To The Front. Benefiting From Gas Central Heating And Double Glazing, The Property Comprises Of; Hall, Lounge Leading Into Dining
- OFFERS AROUND: **£119,950**

Constantine Way Bilston



- An immaculate Detached Residence on the popular Bridgefields Estate, Gas Central Heating, UPVC Double Glazing & No Upward Chain. Spacious Family accommodation Briefly Comprising: RE-ASKING PRICE OF
- Viewing: **£164,950**

Carlton Avenue Bilston



- 3 Bedroom detached house with no upward chain, porch and entrance hallway, modern kitchen, lounge/diner, modern bathroom, driveway and garage, front and rear gardens, double glazing and
- OFFERS AROUND: **£175,000**

Bay Avenue Bilston



- 5 Bedroom modern detached family house, 2 en-suites, main bathroom, wc, kitchen, lounge and dining room Garage and driveway, central heating and double glazing, rear garden, Call Paul Dubberley on
- OFFERS AROUND: **£245,000**

Humphries Crescent Bilston



- A newly exclusive development of 3 detached bungalows, shared tarmacked driveway leading to gravelled parking at front of bungalow. Comprising entrance hall, en-suite to main bedroom, bathroom,
- OFFERS AROUND: **£165,000**



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ROSEHILL WILLENHALL

- Spacious Edwardian Detached Property
- Hall, Two Reception Rooms
- Large Kitchen, Utility • Study
- Four Bedrooms



- Bathroom
- Pleasant Rear Gardens
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing

£175,000



SUMMER HAYES STIRLING CRESCENT

- Link Detached Bungalow
- Hall, Lounge
- Re-fitted Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms



- Re-fitted Shower Room
- Pleasant Gardens
- Majority Double Glazing
- Driveway, Early Viewing Recommended

£170,000



WILLENHALL HONEYBOURNE WAY

- Superb Modern 3 Bedrooms Semi Detached
- Through Lounge / Dining Room
- Conservatory
- Re-fitted Kitchen



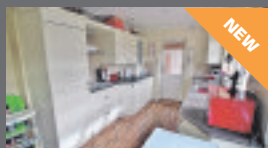
- Bathroom
- Garage
- Pleasant Gardens
- Driveway

£160,000



WILLENHALL LONGWOOD RISE

- Well Presented Semi Detached Property
- Gas Central Heating • Double Glazing
- Refitted Open Plan Kitchen/dining Room
- Large Lounge, Three Good Size Bedrooms



- Family Bathroom
- Detached Garage, Driveway
- Front And Rear Gardens
- NO CHAIN

£160,000



WILLENHALL BUCKINGHAM DRIVE

- Superb Semi Detached Property
- Bought After Location
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Re-fitted Kitchen, Conservatory



- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating
- Driveway, Rear Gardens
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £155,000



WILLENHALL ASTON ROAD

- Semi Detached Property
- Popular Location
- Lounge • Kitchen and Utility
- Bathroom



- Three Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Garage and Driveway
- Gardens

£140,000



WILLENHALL SPINDLE TREE RISE

- Superb Three Storey Mid Terrace
- No Chain
- Hall, Lounge
- Kitchen, Conservatory



- Three Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Driveway, Rear Gardens

£135,000



WILLENHALL NEWENT CLOSE, OFF STROUD AVENUE

- Pleasantly Appointed Semi Detached Bungalow
- No Upward Chain
- Lounge • Kitchen
- Upvc Double Glazed Windows



- Gas Central Heating
- Ample Off Road Parking
- Two Bedrooms
- Gardens

£134,950



WOODLANDS ESTATE MYRTLE CLOSE

- Modern Style Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge • Dining Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Re-fitted Shower Room



- Garage, Driveway
- Gardens
- Gas Central Heating System
- Double Glazing

OFFERS OVER £130,000



WILLENHALL CEDAR ROAD

- Semi Detached Property
- Hall, 22ft Through Lounge
- Spacious Dining Kitchen
- Conservatory



- 3 Bedrooms
- Bathroom, Wet Room
- Garage, Gardens
- No Upward Chain

£130,000



WILLENHALL SHERLOCK CLOSE

- Modern Style End Town House
- Conservatory
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing



- Two Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

£115,000



MOUNT ROAD WILLENHALL

- Traditional Extended Semi Detached
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing
- Gas Ch, Driveway, Rear Gardens



WILLENHALL RUDGE CLOSE

- Extended 3 Bedrooms Mid Terrace Property
- Hall, Lounge, Dining Room • Fitted Kitchen
- Wet Room • Bathroom • Double Glazing
- Gas CH • Driveway, Rear Garden

£100,000



GIPSY LANE WILLENHALL

- Beautifully Appointed And Impressively Improved Mid Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Large Re-fitted Kitchen



- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Rear Gardens

£95,000



WILLENHALL KINGFISHER COURT, CLARKES LANE

- Modern One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bedroom, Bathroom



- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- No Upward Chain
- Security Gated Allocated Parking To The Rear

£75,000



WILLENHALL WILLENHALL ROAD

- Spacious Ground Floor Flat
- Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen



- 2 Good Size Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS OVER £70,000

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SIMMONDS CLOSE, LITTLE BLOXWICH WALSALL

- EXTENDED THREE BEDROOM SEMI
- CUL-DE-SAC LOCATION
- TWO RECEPTION ROOMS
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- GARAGE & OFF ROAD PARKING
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£165,000 Offers

NEW



SANSTONE ROAD, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- SPACIOUS DETACHED PROPERTY LOCATED NEAR TO BLOXWICH GOLF COURSE
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- OFF ROAD PARKING FOR SEVERAL VEHICLES
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£325,000 OFFERS

NEW



PRIESTLEY ROAD, BEECHDALE EST WALSALL

- WELL PRESENTED END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY
- BLOCK PAVED DRIVEWAY
- IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE

£97,500 Offers

NEW



RYLE STREET, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- SUPERB REFITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN AND HOB
- REFITTED BATHROOM
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

£114,950 Offers

NEW



WALKER ROAD, WALSALL WALSALL

- SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED CONSERVATORY
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- NO ONWARD CHAIN

£105,000 Offers

NEW



HOUGH ROAD, PLECK WALSALL

- END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- CORNER PLOT
- TWO DOUBLE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£109,950 Offers

NEW



STATION STREET, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- PLEASANT TWO BEDROOM APARTMENT
- VERY CONVENIENT FOR BLOXWICH TOWN CENTRE
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- ELECTRIC HEATING
- COMMUNAL GARDENS AND PARKING
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- INTERNAL VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£69,950

NEW



FLEMING PLACE, BEECHDALE EST

- ****AUCTION PROPERTY****
- PLEASANT END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN WITH OVEN AND HOB
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- GENEROUS REAR GARDEN WITH DOUBLE ACCESS GATES
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED!



GUIDE PRICE £80,000

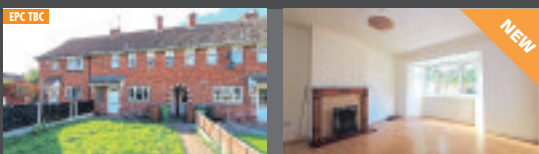


STONEY LANE, LITTLE BLOXWICH

- ****AUCTION PROPERTY****
- PLEASANT END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- PARKING AT REAR
- NO ONWARD CHAIN!



GUIDE PRICE £80,000



GLASTONBURY CRESCENT, BLOXWICH WALSALL

- TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING SYSTEM
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- UPSTAIRS BATHROOM
- NO ONWARD CHAIN
- VIEWING VIA AGENT

£89,950

NEW



MULBERRY ROAD, BLOXWICH

- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED PROPERTY • POPULAR DUDLEY FIELDS AREA
- THREE BEDROOMS • GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING

£114,950 Offers

NEW



BLAKENALL LANE, LEAMORE WALSALL

- CONSIDERABLY IMPROVED TERRACE • IDEAL FIRST TIME PURCHASE
- RE-FITTED KITCHEN • RE-FITTED BATHROOM AND SHOWER ROOM

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NEW PRICE

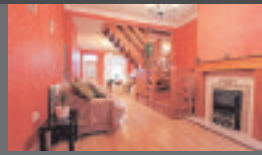
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LEWIS STREET, WALSALL WALSALL

- AUCTION PROPERTY
- TERRACED STYLE PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING



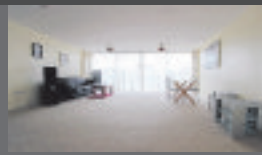
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- GARDEN TO REAR
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

GUIDE PRICE £75,000



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- LIFT & ALLOCATED PARKING
- UNDER FLOOR HEATING



- DOUBLE GLAZED WINDOWS
- NO CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

GUIDE PRICE £100,000



ACHILLES CLOSE, GREAT WYRLEY WALSALL

- END TOWN HOUSE STYLE PROPERTY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- UPVC DOUBLE GLAZING
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING



- GARAGE IN NEARBY BLOCK
- NO CHAIN
- VIEWING RECOMMENDED

£89,950

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- Private Entrance
- Open Plan Kitchen / Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower
- D. Glazing
- Electric Heating
- DHS Accepted
- Rating: 44

Monthly Rental Of £350 PCM

Usk Close, Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat
- Self Contained
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom with Shower
- Allocated Parking Space
- DHS Accepted
- Rating: 71

Monthly Rental Of £395 PCM

The Exchange, Bloxwich

- ONE BEDROOM SELF CONTAINED FLAT
- Bathroom with Shower over Bath
- Large Separate Kitchen
- Spacious Lounge
- DHS Accepted
- Rating: 7

Monthly Rental Of £400 PCM

Thornbury Road, Walsall

- One Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Bathroom
- Communal Grounds
- Sorry NO DHS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating: 68

Monthly Rental Of £425

Cresswell Crescent, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Duplex Flat
- Large Lounge
- Large Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Completely Refurbished
- DHS Accepted
- Electric Heating Throughout
- Rating: 1

Monthly Rental Of £425

Thornbury Road, Walsall

- Well Kept Two Bedroom 1st Floor Apartment
- Entrance Hallway
- Open Plan Kitchen/Lounge
- Bathroom with Shower Over Bath
- Allocated Parking Space
- Electric Heating
- Viewing Essential
- Rating: 69

Monthly Rental Of £475

Green Lane, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Terraced House
- Recently Refurbished
- Two Reception Rooms
- Newly Fitted Kitchen & Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Rating: 67

Monthly Rental Of £475

Bell Tower Close, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Recently Re-Decorated
- Secure Intercom Access
- Entrance Hallway
- Family Bathroom
- Large Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- D. Glazing & C. Heating

Monthly Rental Of £495

NEW **Envile Close, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Popular Turnberry Estate
- Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge with Patio Doors
- Bathroom
- Electric Heating
- New Carpets Throughout
- Rating: 38

Monthly Rental Of £525

NEW **Essington Road, Willenhall**

- Immaculate Two Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Lounge/Diner
- Fitted Kitchen
- Fitted Shower Room
- Master Bedroom with Wardrobes
- Secure Gated Entrance
- Allocated Parking
- Rating: 89

Monthly Rental Of £525

Cecil Street, Walsall

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Recently Refurbished
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- Rating: 29

Monthly Rental Of £525

Squires Grove, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Lounge with Double Doors
- Fitted Kitchen
- Master Bedroom with Ensuite
- Family Bathroom
- Allocated Parking
- Sorry No DHS, Pets or Smokers
- Rating: 67

Monthly Rental Of £525

NEW **Terret Close, Walsall**

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- En-suite
- Electric Heating
- Allocated Parking
- Security Entrance Gates
- Walsall Town Centre
- Rating: 54

Monthly Rental Of £525

NEW **Chestnut Road, Walsall**

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Recently Refurbished
- New Kitchen & Bathroom
- New Flooring Throughout
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge
- Downstairs WC
- Kitchen
- Rating: 56

Monthly Rental Of £550 PCM

Broadway, Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- New Build
- Communal Hallway with Lift
- Kitchen/Lounge
- Family Bathroom
- Rating: 38

Monthly Rental Of £595

Wood Lane, Willenhall

- Two Bedroom Detached Dormer Bungalow
- Large Fitted Kitchen
- Large Lounge with Feature Fireplace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Family Bathroom
- Rating: 62

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Water Reed Grove, Walsall

- Three Bedrooms
- Cloakroom / WC
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Family Bathroom & Ensuite Shower Room
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Mid-sized SUV is a strong contender

Michael Weston

Skoda enters the mid-sized SUV segment with this Kodiaq, a model with class-leading passenger space, plenty of luxurious touches and the option of seven seats.

It can tow up to 2.5-tonnes and has the largest boot in the class too. In other words, you'd have to take this contender seriously.

The mainstream Kodiaq engine range is built around two TDI diesel units and a trio of TSI petrol powerplants.

Most will want the 2.0-litre TDI unit, offered with either 150 or 190PS, with the pokier version able to accelerate this large SUV to 62mph in 8.6s on the way to 130mph. The range of petrol engines consists of two 1.4 TSI units, plus a 2.0 TSI powerplant.

The entry-level 1.4 TSI generates 125PS and 200Nm of torque, while the pokier 1.4 option manages 150PS and 250Nm of pulling power.

The top-of-the-range 2.0TSI petrol engine develops 180PS with a decent 320Nm of torque. It'll be a rare choice though.

Possibly of more interest than the engines on offer will be the freshly-developed 7-speed dual-clutch auto gearbox, an option to the standard 6-speed manual with some variants. An optional 'Driving Mode Select' system enables the driver to tweak throttle response, steering feel and auto gearshift timings, plus on 4x4 versions there's a 'Snow' setting that optimises things for off road use.

Front wheel drive is mandatory on the 1.4 TSI 125PS petrol Kodiaq and optional on the 1.4 TSI 150PS or 2.0 TDI 150PS derivatives. Most will want 4WD though and you have to have it on top petrol and diesel units that must



The interior includes a 6.5-inch infotainment screen



In profile – the Skoda Kodiaq is a handsome option

also be coupled with the auto transmission.

The Kodiaq's styling conforms to the way you'd expect a big Skoda SUV to look, with a clear, precise and clean-cut shape marked out by a distinctive, highly recessed shoulder line. The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is quite striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance. The Kodiaq is one of the biggest VW Group models to be spun off the conglomerate's MQB platform.

It's around 4.7m in length and the long wheelbase and short overhangs point to a large interior.

That's certainly what you get once you take

a seat inside. This is a much bigger SUV than the brand's Yeti, which ample room for heads, legs and knees. The boot's huge too, large enough in fact to accommodate the optional fold-out third seating row that rival Volkswagen Tiguan and SEAT Ateca SUVs can't offer.

If you stick with the five-seat variant, there's a 720-litre cargo area, extendable to 2,065-litres once you fold the rear bench.

If the optional folding passenger seat is chosen, this SUV can transport items up to 2.80m long. An electrically operated tailgate is available, and a Kodiaq fitted with a drivetrain can tow a trailer weighing up to

The wide, three-dimensional radiator grille is striking and the narrow, raked headlights look distinctive in appearance



2.5-tonnes. It's all very practical. Approach purchase of a Kodiaq armed with a budget in the £28,000 to £35,000 bracket and you'll find you've managed your expectations about right. That's about the same kind of money you'd need for obvious family SUV rivals that offer 7-seat options, cars like Kia's Sorento, Hyundai's Santa Fe and Mitsubishi's Outlander.

Equipment levels are quite generous. Even entry-level variants get Skoda's 'Swing' infotainment system with its 6.5-inch screen. It can be supplemented with a smartphone Bluetooth connection and the 'Skoda SmartLink' set-up. 'SmartLink' supports the use of Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and

MirrorLink. Plus there's a 'Phonebox' option that charges a smartphone inductively using the Qi standard and connects to the car aerial – both processes occur wirelessly. There's also the opportunity of specifying a 'Skoda Connect' package that gives you various online services, remote access to your car via a downloadable app and a 'Care Connect' system that provides emergency assistance.

As for safety, well a 'Front Assist' including City Emergency Brake system is standard, using a radar to scan the road ahead for potential accident hazards as you drive. Adaptive Cruise Control, a 'Driver Alert' system to combat fatigue and a 'Traffic Jam Assist' system are all optional.

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CHOICE OF MODELS



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Young drivers should receive good road safety advice

Young drivers admit being unsafe in car

A worrying proportion of young drivers have admitted that they are unsafe on the road, with a majority of parents agreeing they are at risk.

In a recent report released by Continental as part of its Vision Zero campaign, it was shown that 40 per cent of young drivers aged between 17 and 24 considered themselves unsafe on the road.

Of the 1,000 young motorists interviewed, a further 47 per cent believed they were not being taught enough about road safety, while 50 per cent said they would not know where to start when it came to performing basic safety checks, such as checking their tyres.

Mark Griffiths, safety expert at Continental Tyres, said: "Every day in the UK, around nine people die or are seriously injured from a road accident that involves a young car driver.

"It is vital for 17 to 24 year olds to receive adequate road safety information as they learn to drive, setting them up for a lifetime of safe motoring."

The study also saw 1,000 parents of young motorists questioned, with more than two thirds agreeing their children were at risk when they were behind the wheel.

Griffiths added: "With Continental's latest Vision Zero research, it is clear that more should be done to teach young people about driving safely and the reasons why things like tyre tread depth are important.

"Given our commitment to road safety, we educate drivers wherever possible at events across the year, like our support for Global NCAP's #StopTheCrash campaign at the London Motor Show."

Schools, colleges and universities played a large role in teaching 52 per cent of young drivers about road safety, according to survey responses. However, only 20 per cent of parents believed their child's place of learning had taught them about the issue.

E-Class Estate and GLC Coupe range expanded

By James Parker

Three new engines have been added to the E-Class Estate range, which now starts at £36,735 for the E 200 d SE. The E 350 d SE is priced from £47,255, while the Mercedes-AMG E 43 costs £58,290. The existing E 220 d Estate starts from £38,230.

The 200 d features the latest 2.0-litre diesel engine with an output of 150 hp and CO2 emissions of just 109 g/km. It delivers 65.7 mpg on the combined cycle. The 3.0-litre V6 E 350 d produces 258 hp while delivering up to 48.7 mpg and emitting 140 g/km of CO2.

The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine which generates 401 hp – enabling it to reach 62 mph from standstill in 4.7 seconds. All E-Class engines come as standard with a 9G-TRONIC automatic transmission (with shorter shift times for the E 43). Standard specification on the E-Class Estate mirrors that in the E-Class Saloon, but with the addition of standard split-folding rear seats. Command Online with a 12.3-inch screen comes as standard on the E 350 d, and customers can add to this with the 12.3-inch cockpit display for £495.

For the first time, the E 220 d Saloon is available with 4MATIC four-wheel drive– it's priced from £37,730 (£1,500 over the rear-wheel drive 220 d). It accelerates from 0 to 62 mph in 7.5 seconds, and has rear-biased torque distribution of 45:55.

All E-Class Estate models are now available with an optional folding bench seat in the boot, for £1,250. This provides an extra rear-facing two Artico-covered seats – which are specifically designed for use by children under 115 cm (3 ft 9 in) in height – and is stored under the load compartment floor when not in use. An Easy-Pack load securing kit can be specified for an additional £295. This provides rails in the load compartment floor with a telescopic bar that means luggage can be safely clamped against the rear seats or side wall.

An AMG carbon fibre package is available on both Mercedes-AMG E 43 bodystyles for £1,575 – it includes exterior mirror casings and an AMG spoiler lip (saloon only) finished in carbon fibre.

The GLC Coupé is now also available with the V6 3.0-litre diesel, producing 258 hp. The GLC 350 d 4MATIC Coupé can sprint from 0 to 62 mph in 6.2 seconds, emits 161 g/km of CO2 and delivers up to 47.1 mpg on the combined cycle. It is available from £47,135. The Mercedes-AMG GLC 43 4MATIC Coupé can now be ordered from £50,960. Its bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine produces 367 hp, making for 0-62 mph in 4.9 seconds and an electronically limited top speed of 155 mph.



Mercedes-Benz GLC Coupé is now available with a V6 3.0-litre diesel



The Mercedes-AMG E 43 4MATIC Estate features a bi-turbo 3.0-litre V6 petrol engine

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Choosing the right optional extras

Added extras are part of what makes your car yours. They also have the ability to make 'building' your car an enjoyable, unique experience. Manufacturers such as Porsche, BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz all have these features on their websites.

However, as much fun as speccing up a new car can be, are they worth the money?

In some cases, yes. For example, parking assistance makes an excellent addition to any car and could be a cost-saving feature in the future. The last thing you want is tram lines along the corner of your new £40,000 sports saloon. With the accuracy of parking assistance now, it's hard to see why that box would remain unchecked.

However, there are some added extras that can command quite the premium.

When we looked into added extras on Audi's website, a tow bar would set you back a solid £665. When you can afford an Audi, would you be towing a caravan? You could just stay in its special leather-trimmed cabin, which costs an eye-watering £3,950 extra.

But don't let it dishearten you; a customised model will shine



As much fun as speccing up a new car may be, are they worth the money?

amongst its stock brethren. Especially if you decide to get under the hood with added extras, and that's where the fun really starts.

For example, Audi offer its 'Quattro' four-wheel drive system for around £2,000 more than their standard front-wheel-drive systems. If you're trundling down the motorway and you see an Audi tear down the fast lane at

the speed of sound, it's probably making the use of its Quattro system. But when it comes down to it, it's your budget that makes the final decision.

You might have noticed by now that the focus has been on Audis, and that's because the German manufacturer has one of the broadest options lists on the market. That said, you'll find each and every car company offering

plenty of choice when it comes to ticking boxes.

Overall, added extras are something that will make your car yours and unique to you. Whether it is performance based or purely aesthetics, they can help create a car that stands out from the crowd and show your personality.

Like nearly everything in life, it is down to you and your personal preference.

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9 Local Information

public & legal notices

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(Ref: KAC/3857284P/McCormack) 7484741

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10 Personals

personal

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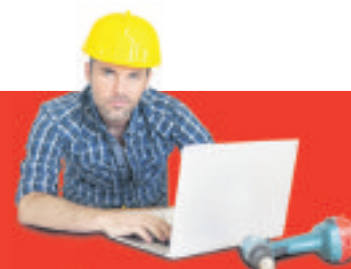
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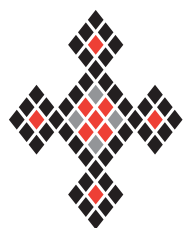
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The Wolves 1907/08 home shirt that features in the book



Wolves' Championship 2002-03 play-off final shirt



Author Steve Plant, aged 55, from Stourbridge, with his Wolves book They Wore The Shirt

Old gold memories as Wolves tops charted

FEW football shirts are as iconic as the old gold and black of Wolverhampton Wanderers.

First donned in 1889, the colours have graced the backs of Wolves greats through the good times and bad. Now the history of the shirt has been put in print by die-hard fan Steve Plant and the book was launched in style with a host of past and present players, club staff and hundreds of fans.

They Wore The Shirt, a 255-page coffee-table book, is the product of the author's vast personal collection and his commitment to documenting the history of the club through the shirt.

Only 1,877 copies have been produced – a nod to the year Wolves were formed – and it comprises glossy pictures of 113 shirts.

Plant, aged 55, said: "There are many shirts in there that people will never have seen before and perhaps didn't even know existed. It is the entire history of Wolves done from a different angle."

Flannel

It begins by chronicling the club's inception and the team founded in 1877 by a group of pupils at Blakenhall's St Luke's school. Plant writes that knitted or worsted jerseys and later gentlemen's flannel dress shirts typically formed a player's attire at that time.

Most notably the shirt worn by the early St Luke's side featured blue and white hoops. By 1883 the club had switched to red and white vertical stripes – the reason still remains a mystery.

In 1889 gold and black was adopted for the first time to match the colours of Wolverhampton's coat of arms created a year earlier. The motto on the coat of arms read Out Of Darkness, Cometh Light – with black used to symbolise the dark and gold representing the light. After a brief return to red and white in 1890, a new Football League order requiring teams to

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Rob Cox

"It reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

register official colours forced Wolves back into gold and black stripes to avoid a clash with Sunderland.

The earliest shirt pictured is the 1907-08 home jersey. It is believed to be the oldest Wolves jersey in existence. It came to Plant via a dusty attic in Canada.

There is a suggestion that it may have belonged to John Brodie, who played a key part in the formation of Wolverhampton Wanderers, with his family believed to have emigrated to Canada.

Other notable entries include the shirts worn by Wolves greats in the hugely successful 1950s.

Among them are the floodlight friendly fluorescent gold shirts made famous by a series of challenge matches against top Continental club sides.

Among the pictures are the very shirt worn by Honved hero Roy Swinbourne who provided the catalyst for the famous victory over the Hungarian side in 1954, shirts from Wolves FA Cup victories and an England shirt worn by Billy Wright against Germany.

A selection of popular Umbro shirts follow from between 1970 and 1986 including the 1977-79 home jersey, voted the club's most popular of all time in a Twitter poll conducted by Plant. The book then enters 'The Bully Years' with the iconic sponsors in-

cluding Staw Distribution, Mander Paint & Ink and Goodyear.

Its final section charts the Millennium Years including the 2002-03 play-off final shirt worn by goalscorer Nathan Blake.

Plant started collecting Wolves shirts to show his father John after he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and given just months to live by doctors.

He said: "I would take each shirt round to show him as I got it and you could see it would put a sparkle in his eye. That was when I started buying anything and everything Wolves related."

Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to Birmingham Children's Cancer Unit with the hope of raising £20,000.

Favourites

Among those attending the launch at the WV1 Bar in the Stan Cullis Stand were current skipper Danny Batth, team-mates Nouha Dicko and Richard Stearman and old favourites Steve Bull, John Richards, Kenny Hibbitt, Phil Parkes, Willie Carr, Steve Daley and Colin Brazier. TV presenter Jacqui Oatley and former players George Elokobi and Matt Jarvis sent messages via a special video.

Plant said: "The Wolves shirt is the fabric of the club and it reminded me why I have given so many years, through good times and bad, watching Wolverhampton Wanderers."

Current players modelled the shirts for the book including Batth who said: "It's the story behind the strips that everyone's interested in and it's nice to be part of and to be able to show my support."

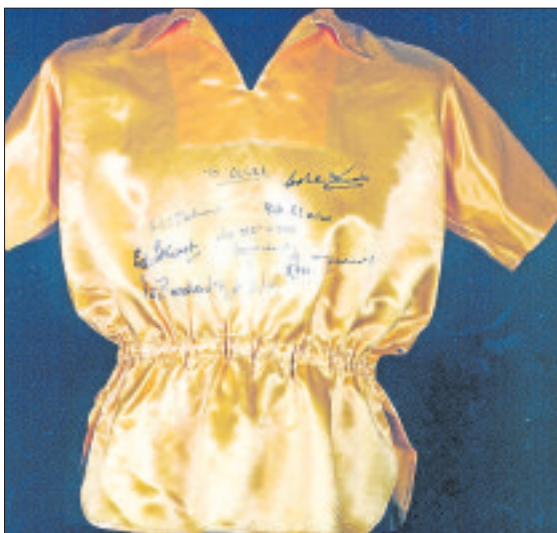
Record goalscorer Steve Bull said: "It's unbelievable. I didn't know what half of those shirts were like."

Hibbitt added: "Looking at some of the photographs in there brings a tear to your eye when you see all the boys."

For a copy, see www.theyworetheshirt.co.uk



Skipper Danny Batth models the 1980 League Cup winning shirt



The shirt worn Roy Swinbourne during the 1954 win over Honved



Legend Kenny Hibbitt leafs through the shirts history book



John Richards, with a 1974 Wembley shirt at the book launch at Molineux



Lacklustre Wood fail to show mettle

Walsall Wood 1 Coventry Sphinx 3
WOOD turned in a lacklustre display, got what they deserved – nothing.

It started well for Wood, after only two minutes Drew Aiton won a left wing corner, the ball was pushed out by keeper Scott Dutton, Anthony Juxon's header comfortably saved.

Sphinx should have scored in their first attack on six minutes, James Towers collected a ball at pace wide left, he ran on and crossed to the far post Reece Blackmore firing over from close range when it looked easier to score.

After a more sedate passage of play Sphinx went in front on 26 minutes, a right wing corner pinged around the box in a bout of head tennis before dropping at the feet of Aron Wint at the far post to score from close range.

Wood struggled to make any impact at the start of the second half and it was the visitors who dictated play.

64 minutes gone Blackmore swung in a left wing corner that was forced home from close range by Darren Eggleton at the far post.

Wood huffed and puffed but couldn't get back into the game until on 76 minutes a long ball forward found substitute Leon Taylor who released Aiton into the right of the box, his driven rising cross handled by a defender, a harsh penalty given. Aiton's spot kick pushed onto his left hand post by a flying Dutton.

It was sewn up on 83 minutes, Harry Harris was dispossessed on halfway by Ryan Harkin who ran on before releasing Jimmy Holton into the box to calmly slot the ball past a stranded keeper.

On 86 minutes Louis Harris went on a crossfield right to left run, he rode three tackles before being brought down on the left of the box. He took the free kick himself firing into the top right hand corner, Dutton finally beaten.

Four-midable Pics close up the gap on league leaders

Sutton Coldfield 0 Rushall Olympic 4
A COMMANDING victory for Rushall put them just one point behind Buxton at the Evo-Stik Premier summit.

After O'Callaghan had seen a header from a free-kick deflected inches wide for the home side, the deadlock was broken on 42 minutes. Alex Reid took advantage of some sloppy defending to take the ball around the keeper and fire home.

Rushall doubled their advantage two minutes into stoppage time at the end of the half when a penalty for handball saw Aaron Forde step up and tuck the ball home.

The second period was only a couple of minutes old when Luckie's header across goal was turned into his own net by Kyle Delaney to make it 3-0.

There was a sweet strike from outside the area by Zak Martin to add a fourth goal on 65 minutes.

As the home side looked to reduce the arrears, they went close as Aris Christopou did well to clear off the line when Francino Francis headed on to Lee Smith who managed to get in a strike at goal.

Grapple for a seat to see legend Hall



Scott Hall in his heyday

A HALL of Fame professional wrestler will be the star of the show when grapplers take to the stage at Walsall Football Club next week.

Walsall born promoter Matt Powell brings his Pro Wrestling Live organisation to the Banks's Stadium Suite on October 28 with a special guest Scott Hall.

One of sports entertainment's controversial yet successful figures, he was inducted into

WWE's Class of 2014. He shot to fame in the old World Wrestling Federation under the persona of 'Razor Ramon,' debuting in 1992. Hall will serve as the ring-side enforcer for the card's main event.

Mad Dog Maxx – Powell's alter ego – will take on former ITV World of Sport favourite Bob 'Blondie' Barratt, with Hall on hand to ensure Barratt's tag team partner Keith Myatt

doesn't interfere. Hall, aged 57 and currently living in Atlanta, Georgia, will also rub shoulders with fans before the show takes place at a meet and greet.

An additional £10 per person on top of the ticket price secures entry and includes a photo and autograph, from 6pm until the action begins at 8pm.

Tickets are available at £15 VIP, £8 standard and a family of four £30. Call 07404 279 880.



The wrestler today

SHREWS CLASH IS A THRILLER

FIVE goals, two red cards, some terrible defending and plenty of controversy.

Walsall continued their remarkable hoodoo over Shrewsbury with this pulsating 3-2 victory.

This was a clash that turned out to be a thriller, and yet it started at a slow pace in what was a flat opening 25 minutes.

Walsall dominated possession, but they struggled to move the ball quickly.

Nevertheless, when Bakayoko latched onto Oztumer's through ball to net his first league goal he gave his side a lead that was deserved on the balance of play.

But a bizarre three-minute spell saw Shrewsbury draw level. It started when Olly Lancashire was introduced from the bench for the injured Adam El-Abd.

And within moments, the former Walsall favourite had pulled Town level when he nodded in a deep free-kick delivered by Ian Black.

After the goal, though, normal service resumed as the Saddlers took charge of the ball. They got their noses in front before half-time when Morris scrambled the ball past Jayson Leutwiler. But had they moved the ball quicker, Whitney's side could have easily gone in 3-1 or 4-1 to the good.

Shrewsbury pulled level shortly after the restart with a scrappy goal by Junior Brown.

Controversy followed, with Stoke loanee George Waring tumbled over in the box and referee Nick Kinsey pointing to the spot. But while Walsall fans had their hearts in their mouths, the official was beckoned over by his linesman who had instead ruled the striker off-side. It was a huge let-off for Whitney's side. And shortly after, Ryan McGivern was dismissed to ensure the momentum had firmly swung back in the Saddlers' favour.

Against 10 men they were patient, energetic and creative.

At the death, Oztumer conjured a late winner when he scored direct from a corner. The only downside was Bakayoko being given a second yellow after celebrating the goal with fans.

Ideally the referee would have shown common sense and let the 20-year-old off the hook.

● The Saddlers host National League side Macclesfield in the FA Cup on November 5.



Kieron Morris scores to put Walsall ahead for the second time at home to Shrewsbury

Subs turn things round for Khalsa

Khalsa 3 Shepshed Dynamo 2
A THREE-CARD trick played by Khalsa boss Ian Rowe with 15 minutes to play and the scores tied at 2-2 saw two of his trio of substitutes combine to secure the victory.

On 16 minutes when Khalsa took the lead through Brad Lawley's thumping header from Danny Ashton's corner.

But the lead lasted less than a minute when a something of a shocker by Khalsa keeper Tom Turner gifted Ben Haseley a relatively routine finish into an open goal. On 56 minutes, Khalsa again took the lead, with Carlo Franco getting his first of the season. Josh Morrall fired home an equaliser on 68 minutes. Rowe made a triple

substitution – bringing Simon Townsend, Bekir Halil and debutant Deqwon Ebanks into the fray – and Ebanks set up Townsend for the winner.

● Willenhall produced a comfortable 3-1 victory over Shifnal Town in the West Midlands Premier. Sam Brook, Mark Habbershaw and Kyle Thompson were on target.

Walsall lose out despite tough fight

WALSALL have vital league games during the next fortnight. The recent shock defeat at Stafford has seen them slip to joint second in Midlands Two.

This Saturday sees them face Leek at Delves Road. The North Staffordshire team are also joint second in the league. While the following week, Walsall, then make the journey to face the current league leaders Stourbridge Lions.

Walsall United 11 Burton 2nds 27
This reserve league cup clash was a good contest between two committed teams. Eventually Burton scored near the corner flag with an excellent conversion adding the extra two points.

Walsall came back strongly and a fine Tony Lay break seemed to have got them their first score. He was, however, stopped just short of the try line, but an Andy Hawkins penalty was some consolation.

The visitors doubled their score after they capitalised on an error on their own lineout. Good ball carries by Jamie Hickman and Jamie Scott gained good positions for the hosts, but once again their only score was an Andy Hawkins penalty. Burton extended their lead with two penalties. One before, and one just after half time.

Midway through the second half, the impressive Jeffrey Williamson, back from injury, finished off an attack with a try near the corner flag. This instigated further Walsall pressure, as Jack Crowhurst and Tom Thornley made good breaks. But the hosts were guilty of conceding possession. A counter attack from a wayward kick resulted in the visitors scoring a try just before the final whistle.

Burntwood 2nds 46 Walsall 3rds 12
This was a tough test for the Walsall team. But they were competitive throughout and only late scores secured an emphatic win for the hosts.

Unbeaten run of games finally ends

Bromsgrove 2 Bloxwich 1
BLOXWICH Men's unbeaten start to the season ended on Saturday, despite them dominating the first half.

Harry Robinson smashed a bouncing ball into the back of the Bromsgrove net to give Bloxwich the lead. After an easy chance was squandered by Bloxwich after the break, Bromsgrove found some rhythm and started playing some good hockey. They quickly converted two quick short corners to take the lead.

Bloxwich's attack made some great chances later on in the second half but the Barbarians were lacking fitness and could not get a late equaliser.

*** The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford. Thursday, October 20, 2016

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